

skirmish

n
/ 'skərmɪʃ /
F > E

a minor dispute or contest between opposing parties.

Winston hopes that his skirmish with the neighbors over his dog does not foreshadow a lengthy feud.

skirret

n
/ 'skɪrət /
Ar? > F > E

an Asiatic herb cultivated in Europe for its sweet edible tuberous roots.

After foraging for an hour, Yang happened on a skirret, the roots of which he would boil and eat.

skookum

adj
/ 'skükəm /
Chinook

marked by excellent quality : first-rate.

Liz felt sure that the pail of blueberries would make a skookum pie.

slalom

n
/ 'slæləm /
Norw

skiing in a zigzag or wavy course between upright obstacles.

Tully did the slalom down the mountainside.

slantindicular

adj
/ .slantɪn'dɪkyələ(r) /
E + L > F > E

somewhat oblique.
The main staircase of the new library rises at a slantindicular angle to the facade.

slapstick

n
/ 'slap.stɪk /
G imit + E

comedy that depends for its effect on fast, boisterous, and zany physical activity and horseplay often accompanied by broad rowdy verbal humor.

The Three Stooges were famous for their slapstick.

sleazily**sledgehammer****sleuth**

v
/ 'slüth /
ON > E

act as a detective or investigator : search for information or facts.

There are several game programs that teach children how to sleuth out facts and figures on the Internet.

sloganeer

n
/ .slɔgə'ni(ə)r /
Gaelic

a coiner or user of brief striking phrases in advertising or promotion.

Without the sloganeer, most commercials would probably be deadily dull.

slovenly

adj
/ 'sləvənli /
G or Flemish

negligent of neatness and order especially in dress or person.

He that is born under Capricorn shall incline to the slovenly.

sluice

n
/ 'slüs /
L > F > E

a body of water pent up behind a floodgate.

Ellen crossed the sluice in a canoe.

slumgullion

n
/ .sləm'gʌlyən /
unknown + (L > F > E)?

a meat stew.

The sailors protested when they were served yet another meal of slumgullion.

smoggy

adj
/ 'smägē /
(E + Scand?) > E

characterized by or abounding in a fog made heavier and darker by smoke and chemical fumes.

The smoggy atmosphere of Los Angeles aggravated Frank's allergies.

smorgasbord

n
/ 'smɔrgəs.bɔrd /
Sw

a luncheon or supper buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes.

Nita's smorgasbord included turkey and smoked salmon.

snagrel

n
/ 'snagrəl /
unknown

an herb of the genus *Aristolochia* of the eastern United States.

Snagrel is also called Virginia snakeroot.

snood

n
/ 'snüd /
E

a net or fabric bag for confining a woman's hair pinned or tied on at the back of the head.

Kathryn auditioned for a part in the Noel Coward play wearing a tea-length gown and snood from the 1930s.

soavemente

adv

/ sō'āvā'mentā /

L > It

with sweetness or smoothness : in a gentle manner—used as a direction in music.

The serenade was played soavemente by the strings.

sociable

adj

/ 'sōshəbəl /

L

enjoying companionship.

The dolphin is one of the most sociable creatures known to man.

sojourner

n

/ 'sō,jərnə(r) /

F > E

one that stays as a temporary resident.

Even though he had lived there for five years, Russell knew he was regarded as a sojourner by the neighbors.

solace

v

/ 'säləs /

L

[has near homonym: solus] console.

When Janie learned she had failed her swimming exam, she decided to solace herself by going out to a movie.

solatium

n

/ sō'lāshēm /

L

something that alleviates or compensates for suffering or loss; especially : an additional allowance (as for injured feelings).

The government offered a solatium to the families of those killed in the terrorist bombing.

solder

v

/ 'sädə(r) /

L > F > E

[has homonym: sodder] unite or make whole by means of a melted metallic alloy.

Jennifer's science class learned how to solder wires so they could experiment with electrical circuits.

solecistic

adj

/ .sälə'sistik /

Gk > L

relating to, constituting, or involving an ungrammatical combination of words in a sentence.

Careful writers shun as solecistic the use of the word like as a conjunction.

solfatara

n

/ .sälfə'tärə /

L > It

a volcanic area or vent that yields sulfur gases and hot vapors and represents a late stage of volcanic activity.

Harry noticed a rotten-egg odor coming from a solfatara on the north side of the previously inactive volcano.

solicitous

adj

/ sə'lisədəs /

L

manifesting or expressing concern.

Dr. Turner is especially solicitous toward his older patients.

soliloquy

n

/ sə'liləkwē /

L

a discourse made by one in solitude to oneself.

At the talent contest Angelo stepped into the spotlight and recited Hamlet's famous soliloquy "To be or not to be, . . ."

solipsism

n

/ 'sōləp.sizəm /

L

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

Critics accused the popular actor of solipsism.

solitaire

n

/ 'sälə.ta(ə)r /

L

a card game designed for one person to play alone.

Shelley often relaxes by playing solitaire after everyone else has gone to bed.

soliterraneous

adj

/ .sōlətə'rānēəs /

L

of or relating to Earth and the Sun.

Scientists attribute the recent drought to soliterraneous causes.

solivagant

adj

/ sō'livəgənt /

L

marked by solitary wandering.

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

solleret

n

/ .sälə'ret /

L > F

a flexible steel shoe forming part of a medieval suit of armor.

The curator explained that the cumbersome solleret had to be removed to allow the knight to fight on foot.

solmization

solon

n
/ 'sɒlən /

Gk name

a wise and skillful lawgiver or statesman.

Judge Kantz is revered throughout the county as a solon.

solstice

n
/ 'sɔːltɪs /
L > F > E

one of two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.

The North Pole is tilted directly toward the Sun at the summer solstice.

solstitial

adj
/ sɔːl'zɪʃəl /
L

of or relating to the two points on the ecliptic at which its distance from the celestial equator is greatest and which is reached by the Sun each year about June 22nd and December 23rd.

Ancient myths about the eternal battle between light and dark are tied to equinoctial and solstitial moments in the year.

sombrero

n
/ sɒm'bre(,)rɒ /

Sp

a high-crowned hat of felt or straw with a very wide brim worn especially in the Southwest and in Mexico.

Maria was dressed quite expensively, with leather boots covering her legs and a dark sombrero poised levelly on her head.

somnambulant

adj
/ sɒm'nambyələnt /
L + L

walking or addicted to walking while asleep.

Sheila could remember nothing of her somnambulant activities when she was told of them the next morning.

sonorous

adj
/ 'sɒnərəs /
L

characterized by full or loud sound often with clear or rich tone, marked volume, or easy audibility.

Alex's sonorous voice made him the clear choice to perform the reading.

sophisticate

v
/ sə'fɪstəkæt /
Gk > L

alter deceptively: adulterate.

Lanny feared that someone would sophisticate the survey results.

sophistry

n
/ 'sɒfəstrē /
Gk > F

reasoning that is superficially plausible but actually fallacious.

Larry's masterful but irresponsible sophistry easily convinced naïve listeners.

Sophoclean

adj
/ ,sɒfə'klēən /
Gk name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the Athenian tragic poet Sophocles or his dramas.

Finding a new Sophoclean fragment in the museum's papyri was Gunther's claim to fame.

sophomore

n
/ 'sɒf(ə)mɒ(ə)r /
Gk

a student in his second year or with second-year standing at a college.

As a sophomore, Jason was expected to find a one-semester internship in his major subject.

soporific

adj
/ ,sɒpə'rɪfɪk /
L > F

causing or tending to cause sleep.

The students valiantly attempted to fight off the soporific effects of the lecture.

sorbet

n
/ 'sɒrbət /
Turkish > It > F

[Note: Could be confused with sherbet.] a frozen dessert made with a mixture of fruits.

Wylie ate sorbet between courses to cleanse his palate.

sorcerer

n
/ 'sɒ(r)s(ə)rə(r) /
L > F

magician.

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

sorghum

n
/ 'sɔːrgəm /
L? > It

syrup produced by evaporating the juice from stems of certain tropical grasses.

Rachel likes sorghum on her oatmeal.

sorrel

n
/ 'sɔrəl /

Gmc > F > E

[has homonyms: saurel, soral, sorel] a light bright chestnut horse often with white mane and tail.

Ken promised to take good care of the sorrel his dad had bought for him.

sortileger

n
/ 'sɔ(r)dʰliʒə(r) /

L
one that tells fortunes; especially : a person who for payment predicts what are claimed to be future events or influences in the life of another.

The sortileger predicted a radical change in Frank's lifestyle.

soubise

n
/ sū'bēz /

F geog name

a white or brown sauce containing onions or onion puree.

A sauceboat of soubise accompanied the roast.

soubresaut

n
/ .sübrə'sɔ /

L > F

a ballet jump from and a landing on both feet in closed position.

Keith demonstrated his lack of ballet prowess with an awkward soubresaut.

sousaphone

n
/ 'süzəfɔn /

Amer name + Gk > E

a large circular tuba having a flaring adjustable bell.

The band director was looking for someone who could play the sousaphone.

southpaw

n
/ 'saʊθ.pə /

E + F > E

left-hander; specifically : a left-handed baseball pitcher.

Some fans think Babe Ruth was the best southpaw ever to play major league baseball.

souvenir

n
/ .süvə'ni(ə)r /

L > F

something that serves as a reminder : memento, remembrance.

Moira kept a seashell as a souvenir of her trip to the ocean.

spacistor

n
/ 'spā.sistə(r) /

L

a high-frequency semiconductor amplifying device.

The spacistor has replaced the transistor because of its greater ability to amplify electrical energy.

spaghetti

n
/ spə'gedē /

It

a pasta made in solid strings of small diameter but larger than vermicelli.

The specialty of the restaurant was spaghetti with meat sauce.

spangle

n
/ 'spʌŋgəl /

Scand > E

a small object that brightly reflects light.

The packrat ran out into the road to pick up the glittering spangle.

spatiotemporal

adj
/ .spāshē(,)ō'temp(ə)rəl /

L

having the quality of something that is at once extended and enduring.

The philosopher pointed out that two things cannot coexist in one spatiotemporal point.

spatula

n
/ 'spachələ /

L

a flat thin flexible dull-edged usually metal implement used especially for spreading or mixing soft substances, scooping, or lifting.

With batter on his face and a spatula in his fist, Casey smiled for his mom and her camera.

species

n pl
/ 'spē(,)shēz /

L

a category of biological classification ranking immediately below a genus or subgenus.

The housefly belongs to the genus Musca and the species domestica.

speciesism

n
/ 'spē(,)s(h)ē.zizəm /

L + Ecf

prejudice or discrimination based on species; especially : discrimination against animals.

Some animal rights activists go so far as to claim that swatting a fly is an act of speciesism.

specimen

n
/ 'spesəmən /

L

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

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

specious

adj
/ 'spēshəs /
L

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

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

spectral

adj
/ 'spektrəl /
L

of, like, or relating to a disembodied spirit, apparition, or ghost.

Galloping toward him was a spectral rider on horseback.

spectrum

n
/ 'spektrəm /
L

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

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

speleologist

n
/ ,spēlē'äləjəst /
Gk > L > ISV

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

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

speleothem

n
/ 'spēlēəthem /
Gk > L > ISV + Gk

a cave deposit or formation.

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

spelunking

n
/ spə'lŋkɪŋ /
E

the hobby or practice of exploring caves.

Spelunking is a popular activity in eastern Kentucky.

sphagnum

n
/ 'sfagnəm /
Gk > L

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

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

spherical

adj
/ 'sfirəkəl /
Gk > L + Ecf

like a sphere : globular.

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

spheterize

v
/ 'sfedəriz /
Gk

take for one's own : appropriate.

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

sphinx

n
/ 'sfɪŋ(k)s /
Gk > L

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

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

spiedino

n
/ ,spēə'dē(,)nō /
Gmc > F > It

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

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

spinescent

adj
/ spī'nesənt /
L

tapering to a sharp rigid point.

The fish Homer caught had two spinescent fins.

spinnet

n
/ 'spɪnət /
L > It

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

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

spinnaker

n
/ 'spɪnəkə(r) /
unknown

a large triangular sail set on a long light pole and used when running before the wind.

The spinnaker on Diane's boat is cardinal red.

spiracle

n
/ 'spɪrəkəl /
L

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

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

splenetic

adj
/ splə'nedɪk /
Gk > L

marked by morose bad temper, sullen malevolence, or spiteful, peevish anger.

The splenetic critic gave the musical a scathing review.

spondylitis

n
/ ,spændə'lidəs /
Gk > L

inflammation of the vertebrae.
Jewel's back pain was caused by spondylitis.

spontaneity

n
/ ,späntə'nēədē /
L

the quality or state of being unconstrained or impulsive.
Brian has always liked to stick to a schedule, but lately he has shown more spontaneity than usual.

spontaneous

adj
/ spän'tānēəs /
L

proceeding from natural feeling or native tendency without external constraint.
His employee's spontaneous obedience made Tim's job pleasant.

spoonerism

n
/ 'spünə.rizəm /
E name

a transposition of usually initial sounds of two or more words that generally creates a comic effect.
Vivian was afraid that she would utter a spoonerism in her recitation.

sporogenous

adj
/ spə'räjənəs /
Gk > L

producing or adapted to the production of minute unicellular reproductive bodies.
The botany class studied the development of the fern's sporogenous tissue.

sporrán

n
/ 'spärən /
ScotGael
a large pouch of skin with the hair or fur on that is worn in front of the kilt by Highlanders in full dress and used as a purse.

Angus picked up a quarter and put it in his sporran.

springerle

n
/ 's(h)prɪŋərlə /
G

a thick hard cookie usually flavored with anise and impressed with a relief design and traditionally eaten at Christmas in German-speaking countries.

Klaus broke his tooth on a stale springerle.

squalid

adj
/ 'skwäləd /
L

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

squaliform

adj
/ 'skwālə.fɔrm /
L > E

resembling a shark or dogfish in form.
While scuba diving, Mike encountered a group of curious squaliform fish.

squeamish

adj
/ 'skwēmɪʃ /
AF > E

inclined to become nauseated : queasy.
Pat is squeamish when it comes to rides at the fair.

squelch

v
/ 'skwelch /
imit

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

squirrel

n
/ 'skwər(ə)l /
Gk > L > F > E

any of various widely distributed small to medium-sized rodents that have a bushy tail and long strong hind limbs.

On the trunk of the tree, a brown squirrel was clinging and watching the boy below.

staccato

adj
/ stəkəd(,)ō /
F > It

marked by short clear-cut playing or singing of tones or chords.
Marcia's piano teacher told her to practice the etude's staccato passage several minutes each day.

stagnant

adj
/ 'stagnənt /
L

having undergone physical changes while standing; especially : impaired in flavor, odor, or texture by such changes.

Josh stood still in disbelief after Kevin pushed him into the stagnant water of the ditch.

stalactite

n
/ stəl'ak.tīt /
Gk

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

stalagmite

n
/ stə'lag.mīt /
Gk

a deposit of crystalline calcium carbonate more or less like an inverted stalactite formed on the floor of a cave.

A gigantic stalagmite blocked the spelunker's path.

stalwart

adj
/ 'stɔlwə(r)t /
E

brave, valiant, resolute.

The new musical comedy is based on the story of Robin Hood and his stalwart companions.

stamina

n
/ 'stamənə /
L

strength or courage of conviction : staying power.

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

stampede

n
/ stam'pēd /
Gmc > Sp

a wild headlong rush or flight of a number of animals usually due to fright.

The lightning strike caused a cattle stampede.

stanchion

n
/ 'stanchən /
L > F

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

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

stanniferous

adj
/ sta'nif(ə)rəs /
Celt > L

containing tin.

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

stannous

adj
/ 'stanəs /
L

of, relating to, or containing tin—used especially of compounds in which this element is bivalent.

In geology class Syadi was surprised to learn that cassiterite, the principal ore of tin, is not considered stannous.

stanzaical

adj
/ ,stan'zāikəl /
L > It

relating to or consisting of groups of lines arranged together in a recurring pattern of metrical lengths and usually a sequence of rhymes.

Kerri prefers poetry with a more stanzaical form.

statically

adv
/ 'stədək(ə)lē /
Gk > L

in stable or unchanging terms.

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

stationary

adj
/ 'stāshə.nerē /
L

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

The clerk calmly remained in a stationary position.

stationery

n
/ 'stāshə.nerē /
L > F > E

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

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

statistician

n
/ ,stadə'stishən /
L > G

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

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

statistics

n pl
/ stə'tistiks /
L

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

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

statuesque

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

having a massive dignity or impressiveness : majestic.

A statuesque sculpture stood in the town square.

steinkern

n
/ 's(h)tɪŋ.kɜrn /
G

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

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

stellar

adj
/ 'stelə(r) /
L

of, relating to, or derived from the stars.

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

stenographer

n
/ stə'nəgrəfə(r) /
Gk + Gk

one who is employed chiefly to take and transcribe dictation.

Sergeant Fitzpatrick called in a stenographer to record the suspect's confession.

steppe

n
/ 'step /
Russ

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

The tourists explored the steppe in search of exotic wildlife.

sternutation

n
/ ,stɜrnyə'tāshən /
L

the act, fact, or noise of sneezing.

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

stertorous

adj
/ 'stɜrdərəs /
L

characterized by a harsh snoring or gasping sound.

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

stethoscope

n
/ 'stethəskɒp /
Gk > F

an instrument used for the detection and study of sounds within the body.

Heard through a stethoscope, the rumbling of the stomach can sound like a storm at sea.

stevedore

n
/ 'stēvədō(ə)r /
L > Sp

one who works at or is responsible for the loading or unloading of a ship in port.

The stevedore returned to the ship after dining at his favorite dockside restaurant.

stewardess

n
/ 'st(y)üə(r)dəs /
E

a woman who attends to the needs of passengers (as on an airplane, ship, or train).

When addressed as stewardess, Emily requested that she be called a flight attendant.

sthenic

adj
/ 'sthenik /
Gk

marked by excessive vitality or nervous energy.

Fido's sthenic symptoms finally subsided.

stifle

v
/ 'stɪfəl /
F > E

kill by smothering : asphyxiate.

Smoke can stifle a person in a short period of time.

stipend

n
/ 'stɪ.pɛnd /
L

a fixed sum of money typically modest in amount that is paid periodically in compensation for services.

The university gave Professor Barrett a stipend for his lecture series.

stochastic

adj
/ stə'kastɪk /
Gk

lacking or seeming to lack a regular plan, purpose, or pattern.

Vince programmed the computer to create a stochastic series of numbers.

stollen

n
/ 's(h)tɒləŋ /
G

[has homonym: stolen] a sweet yeast bread containing fruits and nuts, usually made in a long oval loaf.

Henrietta found a recipe for stollen in her German cookbook.

strabismus

n
/ strə'bɪzməs /
Gk > L

inability of one eye to attain binocular vision with the other because of imbalance of the extrinsic eye muscles.

Corrective surgery was performed to remedy Herman's strabismus.

straiten

v

/ 'strāɪtən /

L > F > E

[has homonym: straighten] cause to suffer or ebb by reason of insufficient funds : reduce (as oneself) to poverty.

With the generous university grant, Joanne's family would not have to straiten itself to provide the education she desired.

strangulate

v

/ 'stræŋgə.laɪt /

L

compress the windpipe of until death results from stoppage of respiration.

Many nonvenomous snakes strangulate their prey.

stratagem

n

/ 'strædʒə.jəm /

Gk

a cleverly contrived trick or scheme for gaining an end.

Barb was disappointed that her mother saw through her stratagem for staying out past curfew.

strathspey

n

/ 'stræθ.spə /

Scot geog name

a Scottish dance similar to but slower than the reel.

The highland fling is one example of a dance in the manner of the strathspey.

stratocirrus

n

/ 'strædɔ'sɪrəs /

L

a low dense fairly uniform cloud formation.

The meteorologist predicted a heavy cover of stratocirrus for the weekend.

strephosymbolia

n

/ ,stre(,)fɔ:sɪm'bɔ:lɪə /

Gk

reversal or transposition of phrases, words, or letters or of any symbols especially in reading.

Because of his strephosymbolia, Ryan was diagnosed as having a learning disorder.

strepitous

adj

/ 'strepədəs /

L

characterized or accompanied by much noise.

The playoff game was a strepitous event.

streptomycin

n

/ ,streptɔ'mɪsɪn /

Gk

an antibiotic organic base active against many bacteria and used especially in the treatment of infections (as tuberculosis) by gram-negative bacteria.

Streptomycin was the first drug to prove effective against tuberculosis.

streuselkuchen

n

/ 'strüsəl.kükən /

G

coffee cake that is baked with a topping of a crumbly mixture of butter, sugar, and flour and sometimes nuts and spices.

Mrs. Messer, our neighbor, always bakes her family a streuselkuchen for the holidays.

stricture

n

/ 'strɪkʃə(r) /

L

an abnormal narrowing of a tubular organ : constriction.

The stricture of Lucy's throat was caused by an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

strident

adj

/ 'strɪdɪnt /

L

marked by insistent, discordant, harsh, shrill, or grating noise or sound.

Mary-Ellen's fingernails produced a strident sound as she drew them across the blackboard.

strigil

n

/ 'strɪjəl /

L

an instrument usually of metal or ivory used by the ancient Greeks and Romans for scraping the skin especially after athletic exercises.

Damocles appreciated receiving a strigil personalized with his initials.

stringent

adj

/ 'strɪnjənt /

L

marked by rigor, strictness, or severity.

Stringent regulations have helped curb environmental pollution.

stroganoff

adj

/ 'strɔ:gə.nɒf /

Russ name

sliced thin and cooked in a sauce of meat stock, sour cream, onion, and condiments.

Erica prepared beef stroganoff for the mayor's visit.

strophulus

n

/ 'strɔ:fjələs /

Gk

a rash in infants popularly associated with teething distress.

The pediatrician prescribed an ointment for our baby's strophulus.

strudel

n
/ 's(h)trüd*1 /

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

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

strychnine

n
/ 'stri:k.nīn /

Gk
a very poisonous bitter crystalline alkaloid obtained from various plants.

Strychnine is a popular poison in murder mystery novels.

studious

adj
/ 'st(y)üdēəs /

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

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

stultiloquence

n
/ .stəl'tiləkwen(t)s /

L + L
senseless or silly talk : babble.
Myra soon broke her vow never to resort to stultiloquence when communicating with her baby.

stupefy

v
/ 'st(y)üpə.fi /

L
blunt or deaden the faculties of perception and understanding of.
Bright headlights will often stupefy a deer and cause it to stand motionless in the path of an oncoming vehicle.

stupendous

adj
/ st(y)ü'pendəs /

L
of amazing size or greatness.
The construction of Khufu's pyramid was a stupendous accomplishment for the ancient Egyptians.

stygian

adj
/ 'stij(ē)ən /

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

styptic

adj
/ 'stiptik /

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

suasible

adj
/ 'swāsəbəl /

L
capable of being induced into some mental position : easily brought to belief, certainty, or conviction.
When it comes to trying new foods, Ming is the least suasible member of her family.

subaltern

adj
/ sə'böltə(r)n /

L
inferior in status or quality : subordinate.
Julia is disappointed with her subaltern role in the school play.

subaqueous

adj
/ .səb'ākweəs /

L
being or found under water or beneath the surface of water.
Bartley rented a glass-bottomed boat to get a better look at the subaqueous fauna.

subboreal

adj
/ səb'bōrēəl /

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

subfulgent

adj
/ .səb'fʌljənt /

L
moderately lustrous.
The silver platter in Mary's antique shop was battered but still had a subfulgent gleam.

subjugate

v
/ 'səbjə.gāt /

L
bring under the yoke of power or dominion.
The love of acquisition and conquest are powers of destruction when used to subjugate one person to another.

submersible

adj
/ səb'mərsəbəl /

L + Ecf
capable of functioning under water.
The earliest designs for submersible vehicles date to antiquity.

suborn

v

/ sə'bò(ə)rŋ /

L > F

induce (as a person) by underhanded means to do some improper or unlawful thing.

The sting operation exposed Mr. Underwood's attempts to suborn the city treasurer.

subrident

adj

/ ,sə'brīd'nt /

L

wearing or offered with a smile.
Eilene's subrident answer belied the furious feelings she had toward the questioner.

subservient

adj

/ (,)səb'sərvɛənt /

L

subordinate.
In ancient Rome, wives were legally subservient.

subsidiary

adj

/ (,)səb'sīdē.ərē /

L

of secondary importance or prominence.
Marge's role was subsidiary, but her first-rate performance stole the show.

subsistence

n

/ səb'sīstən(t)s /

L

a mode of obtaining the necessities of life : livelihood.
Mr. Ellis preaches to his students that a good education goes far to ensure a respectable subsistence.

substitute

n

/ 'səbzət.üt /

L

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

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

subterfuge

n

/ 'səbtə(r).fyüj /

L

deception by trickery or stratagem to conceal, escape, avoid, or evade.
George's experience in subterfuge is mostly in cryptography.

subtleness

n

/ 'səd'lnəs /

L > F > E + Ecf

the quality or state of being delicate or elusive.
The subtleness of the almond custard eluded Mr. Denson.

succinct

adj

/ sək'siŋ(k)t /

L

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

succorance

n

/ 'səkə(r)rən(t)s /

L > F > E

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

succotash

n

/ 'səkətəʃ /

Algonquian

a mixture of lima beans or shell beans and kernels of corn cooked together.

Even though Thelma likes both corn and lima beans, she isn't fond of succotash.

succulent

adj

/ 'səkylənt /

L

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

succumb

v

/ sə'kəm /

L

yield and cease to resist or contend before a superior strength, overpowering appeal or desire, or inexorable force.
Joanie found it impossible not to succumb to her drowsiness.

sudadero

n

/ ,südə'de(,)rō /

L > Sp

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

sudoriferous

adj

/ ,südə'rīf(ə)rəs /

L

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

uerte

n
/ 'swɜr(ɪ)tā /
L > Sp

a skilled movement or pass in a bullfight.

The crowd cheered as the toreador demonstrated a dangerous suerte.

suffice

v
/ sə'fɪs /
L

be enough : meet or satisfy a need.

One teaspoonful of salt will suffice for the stew.

sufficiently

adv
/ sə'fɪʃəntlē /
L + Ecf

in a manner marked by quantity, scope, power, or quality to meet with the demands, wants, or needs of a situation.

The number of books printed sufficiently filled the back orders.

sufflamine

v
/ sə'fləmənāt /
L

obstruct, impede.

Because Tim said not having a computer would sufflamine his progress, his parents relented and bought him one.

suffocate

v
/ 'səfəkāt /
L

die from being unable to breathe.

It was so hot and stuffy in the classroom that Mark thought he would suffocate.

suffrage

n
/ 'səfrɪj /
L > F

the right or power to participate in electing public officials and adopting or rejecting legislation in a representative form of government.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution gives women suffrage.

suffrutescent

adj
/ ,sə'frütəsənt /
L

having a base that is somewhat woody and does not die down each year—used of a plant or stem.

Eunice prunes her suffrutescent shrubs in the fall.

suffumigate

v
/ sə'fyüməgāt /
L

apply smoke, vapor, or gas to from below, as to treat (as a house or room) with a gas for the purpose of disinfecting or of destroying pests.

Clayton joked that his downstairs neighbor was trying to suffumigate him with his incessant grilling on his deck.

suffuse

v
/ sə'fyüz /
L

spread over or through in the manner of fluid or light.

The fixtures were intended to suffuse the patio in warm light.

sukiyaki

n
/ ,sükē'(y)äkē /
Jpn

meat, soybean curd, onions, bamboo shoots, and other vegetables cooked in soy sauce, sake, and sugar.

Joyce watched with fascination as the Japanese cook prepared sukiyaki right at the table.

sulkily

adv
/ 'səlkəlē /
E?

in a moodily silent manner.

When asked to explain why he had been fighting, Tim looked sulkily down at the floor.

sultanate

n
/ 'səlt'nət /
Ar > F

a state or country governed by a sultan.

Arhat's ancestors ruled a small sultanate on the Arabian Peninsula.

sultriness

n
/ 'səltrənəs /
E

the quality or state of being oppressively hot and humid.

Marge's air-conditioned car provided welcome relief from July's sultriness.

sumpter

n
/ 'səm(p)tər /
L > F > E

a saddlebag.

Grandpa's sumpter is embossed with his initials.

sumptuous

adj
/ 'səm(p)chəwəs /
L

involving large outlay or expense : costly, lavish.

Our grandparents treated the whole family to a sumptuous brunch on Saturday.

superannuated

adj
/ ,süpə'ranyə.wādəd /
L

rated no longer fully or passably efficient in one's job because of age : incapacitated or disqualified for active duty by advanced age.

The superannuated file clerk held little hope of finding a job in the near future.

supercilious

adj

/ ˌsju:pə(r)'silēəs /

L

arrogantly superior : haughty, disdainful.

*The supercilious senior ignored the first-year student.***superfluous**

adj

/ sju:'pɜ:fləwəs /

L

exceeding what is sufficient, necessary, normal, or desirable.

*Alex's teacher told him to eliminate superfluous words from his essay.***superintendent**

n

/ ˌsju:p(ə)rən'tendənt /

L

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

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

adj

/ ˌsju:pə(r)'nach(ə)rəl /

L

attributable to or liable to be attributed to the action or presence of a ghost, spirit, or other invisible agent.

*The book was filled with tales of supernatural occurrences.***supernumerary**

n

/ ˌsju:pə(r)'n(y)ümərəre /

L

an actor employed to play a walk-on (as in a mob scene or spectacle).

*The casting director wanted a supernumerary to play one of the bank's customers.***supersonic**

adj

/ ˌsju:pə(r)'sänik /

L

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

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

adj

/ ˌsju:pə(r)'stishəs /

L > F > E

having or based on a belief, conception, act, or practice resulting from ignorance, unreasoning fear of the unknown, or a false conception of causation.

*The bridge became more than ever an object of superstitious awe.***supination**

n

/ ˌsju:pə'nāshən /

L

a rotation of the hand and radius around the ulna so that the palm is turned up.

*Supination aggravated Henri's tennis elbow.***supine**

adj

/ sə'pi:n /

L

lying on the back or with the face upward.

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

v

/ 'səpləkāt /

L

ask earnestly and humbly of.

*The defendant's only hope was to supplicate the court for mercy.***suretyship**

n

/ 'ʃʊr(ə)dē:ʃɪp /

L > E + Ecf

the obligation of a person to answer for the debt, default, or failure in duty of another.

*When Sally's father co-signed her first automobile loan, he accepted the suretyship that it represented.***surfactant**

n

/ ˌsɜ:'fæktənt /

L

a substance useful for its cleansing, wetting, dispersing, or similar powers.

*The surfactant in a detergent lowers the water's surface tension, enabling faster wetting of the fabric being washed.***surfeit**

n

/ 'sɜ:fət /

L > F > E

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

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

adj

/ 'sɜ:li /

E

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

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

n

/ sə'reə'lizəm /

F

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

David Lynch is a modern master of cinematic surrealism.

surreptitious

adj

/ ,sərəp'tiʃəs /

L

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

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

surrogate

n

/ 'sʌrəgāt /

L

something that replaces or substitutes for another.

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

surtout

n

/ ,sɜr'tu /

L > F + L > F

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

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

surveillance

n

/ sə(r)'vælən(t)s /

L > F

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

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

surviving

adj

/ sə(r)'vɪvɪŋ /

L > F

remaining alive or in existence.

Uncle Leonard is the oldest surviving graduate of Milburn College.

susceptible

adj

/ sə'septəbəl /

L

easily influenced or affected through some trait.

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

suspicion

n

/ sə'spɪʃən /

L

mistrust, doubt.

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

sustenance

n

/ 'sʌstənən(t)s /

L > F

something that gives support, endurance, or strength.

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

susurration

n

/ ,süsə'ræʃən /

L

a whispering sound : murmur.

A mild susurration could be heard in the study hall despite the teacher's "no talking" mandate.

suture

v

/ 'süchə(r) /

L&F

unite the parts of by using a strand or fiber.

The doctor estimated that it would take about 45 minutes to suture the gash in Tim's leg.

suzerain

n

/ 'süzərən /

F

a superior lord to whom allegiance is due : a feudal lord.

The suzerain gave the vassal the use of his land and agreed to protect him when necessary.

Svengali

n

/ sfen'gälē /

Brit literary name

one who attempts usually with evil intentions to persuade or force another to do his bidding.

Many fans thought that the rock star's wife was a Svengali who engineered the group's breakup.

sweltering

adj

/ 'sweltərɪŋ /

E

oppressively hot : causing or marked by excessive sweating or faintness.

Despite the sweltering heat, thousands of people lined the streets to watch the Fourth of July parade.

swindleable

adj

/ 'swɪnd(ə)ləbəl /

G + Ecf

capable of being deprived of money or property by fraud or deceit.

The circus owner maintained that the majority of people are gullible and swindleable.

swineherd

n

/ 'swɪn.hɜrd /

E

a person who looks after hogs.

Ian loathed his job as a swineherd.

swivel

v
/ 'swivəl /
E

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

sybaritic

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

sybaritically

adv
/ ,sɪbə'ritɪk(ə)lɪ /
Gk > L > E
in a luxurious or voluptuous manner.
Dana reclined sybaritically on the velvet sofa.

synchronicarpous

adj
/ ,sɪknə'kɑːrpəs /
Gk + Gk > L > E
able to produce fruit repeatedly.
The apple and pear are synchronicarpous trees.

syllabus

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

syllogism

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

syllogize

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

sylph

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

symbiosis

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

symphony

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

synchronicity

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

syncopation

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

syncope

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

syndicate

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

synecdoche

n

/ sə'nekdə(,)kē /

Gk

a figure of speech by which a part is put for the whole or vice versa.

Fifty sail is a synecdoche for fifty ships.

synod

n

/ 'sinəd /

Gk > L > E

an ecclesiastical council : a formal meeting to consult and decide on church matters.

Karl is an active participant in the regional Presbyterian synod.

synopsis

n

/ sə'näpsəs /

Gk

a brief orderly outline affording a general view.

Marvin read a plot synopsis before he saw Macbeth.

synoptophore

n

/ sə'näptə.fō(ə)r /

Gk

an instrument for diagnosing imbalance of eye muscles.

The ophthalmologist prescribed eye exercises to correct the muscular imbalance detected by the synoptophore.

synthesis

n

/ 'sin(t)θəsəs /

Gk

composition or combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole.

Language arts is a synthesis of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills

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syringe

n
/ sə'rɪnj /

Gk > L > E

a device used to inject fluids into or withdraw them from the body or its cavities.

Cameron let the toddler use an old ear syringe as a bathtub toy.

syzygy

n
/ 'sɪzəj /

Gk

the nearly straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies in a gravitational system.

Tides are highest when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are in syzygy.

tabernacle

n
/ 'tæb(ə)r.nakəl /

L > F > E

a meetinghouse with a large assembly hall.

The town meeting will be held at the tabernacle.

tabetisol

n
/ tə'bedə.səl /

L + Ecf

unfrozen ground above, within, or below the permanently frozen ground.

Arctic wildflowers are able to survive in areas of tabetisol.

tableau

n
/ 'tɑːblə /

F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] a static depiction usually presented on a stage with participants in appropriate costume.

The final scene is a tableau in which the family is gathered at the gravesite.

tachometer

n
/ tɑ'kæməd(ə)r /

Gk

a device for indicating the speed of rotation.

By watching the tachometer, Mr. Henderson was able to keep the engine running above 3000 rpm.

tachygraphy

n
/ tɑ'kɪgrəfē /

Gk > F

the art or practice of rapid writing.
Professor Jespersen lectures so quickly that students who practice tachygraphy have an advantage.

taciturn

adj
/ 'tæsətərn /

L > F

habitually silent : temperamentally disinclined or reluctant to talk or converse.

Mrs. Gibbons found it challenging to draw the taciturn boy into class discussions.

taciturnity

n
/ ,tæsətərnədə /

L

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

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

tapir

n
/ 'tāpə(r) /
Tupi

[has homonym: taper] any of a genus of chiefly nocturnal hoofed mammals of tropical America and Myanmar to Sumatra that have the snout and upper lip prolonged into a short flexible proboscis.

The tapir is both a browser and a grazer, feeding on leaves, twigs, and fruits, as well as on grasses.

tarantula

n
/ tə'ranch(ə)lə /

It geog name

any of a family of large hairy spiders that are capable of biting but are not significantly poisonous to humans.

Alexander's friend tried in vain to convince him to get a pet tarantula.

tardigrade

adj
/ 'tārdə,grād /

L
moving or stepping slowly.

The sloth is a well-known tardigrade animal.

tariff

n
/ 'tarəf /

Ar > It

the duty or rate of duty imposed by a government on imported or exported goods.

A high tariff protects the home industries from foreign competition.

tarmac

n
/ 'tār.mak /

(E + Brit name) > trademark

a road, apron, or runway made of asphalt.

Neil's suitcase fell out of the airplane and its contents spilled out onto the tarmac.

tarpaulin

n
/ 'tār'pōlən /
E + E

a piece of material (as durable plastic) used for protecting exposed objects or areas.

When rain began during the second inning of the baseball game, the ground crew rolled out the tarpaulin to protect the field.

tarragon

n
/ 'tarə.gän /

Ar > L > F

a small European perennial wormwood grown for its aromatic foliage that is used in cooking.

Paul planted tarragon in his herb garden.

tartar

n
/ 'tārdər /

L
[has homonym and near

homonyms: tarter and tartare, Tatar] an incrustation on the teeth consisting of salivary secretion, food residue, and various salts.

The hygienist carefully removed the tartar from Rekha's teeth.

tatami

n
/ tə'tāmē /

Jpn

a straw matting used as a floor covering in a Japanese home.

The Japanese restaurant had a special room in which patrons could sit on a tatami while dining.

tatterdemalion

adj
/ .tədə(r)də'mālyən /

Scand > E + unknown

ragged or disreputable in dress or appearance.

No one would have guessed that the tatterdemalion fellow is a millionaire.

tattersall

n
/ 'tədə(r).səl /
E name

a fabric having a pattern of colored lines forming squares of solid background.

Jeanne bought a blue-and-white tattersall to make into a skirt.

tattletale

n
/ 'təd'l.tāl /

D + E

one that blabs or tells secrets.

Erica's official title is "social reporter," but Will considers her a plain old tattletale.

taunt

v
/ 'tənt /

F? > E

reproach in a mocking or insulting manner : jeer at.

Spectators on the sidewalk began to taunt the suspect as he exited the van.

taupe

n
/ 'tōp /

L > F

[has homonym: tope] a light brownish gray.

It took some time, but Pam finally matched the taupe of her dress to a pair of shoes.

tauromachy

n
/ tō'rāməkē /

Gk + Gk

the art or practice of bullfighting.

The toreador is well known for his slow, dignified style of tauromachy.

tautology

n
/ tó'täləjē /
Gk

an instance of needless or meaningless repetition in close succession of an idea, statement, or word.

The phrase a beginner who has just started is a tautology.

tautophony

n
/ tó'täfənē /
Gk

repetition of the same sound.

The insistent tautophony of Josh's alarm clock finally woke him up.

tawdrily

adv
/ 'tódrəlē /
name > E

in a cheap and gaudy manner.

The tawdrily dressed actress signed autographs outside her hotel.

telamon

n
/ 'teləmān /
Gk > L

a male figure used as a supporting column or pilaster.

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

telegnosis

n
/ .telə'nōsəs /
Gk + Gk

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

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

telephone

n
/ 'teləfōn /
Gk + Gk

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

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

telesis

n
/ 'teləsəs /
Gk

progress intelligently planned and directed.

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

temerarious

adj
/ .temə'ra(a)rēəs /
L

rashly or presumptuously daring : reckless.

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

temerity

n
/ tə'merədē /
L

unreasonable or foolhardy contempt of danger or opposition.

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

temperate

adj
/ 'temp(ə)rət /
L > E

having a moderate climate.

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

tempestuous

adj
/ tem'pes(h)chəwəs /
L

of, involving, or resembling a furious storm.

The tempestuous action of wind and waves imperiled the ships.

tempura

n
/ .tempə'rä /
Jpn

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

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

tenacious

adj
/ tənāshəs /
L > E

holding fast or tending to hold fast.

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

tenacity

n
/ tənāsədē /
L

the quality or state of holding fast : determination, firmness, persistence.

Randy's tenacity often made him seem stubborn.

tenaculum

n
/ tən'nakjələm /

L
a slender sharp-pointed hook attached to a handle and used mainly in surgery for seizing and holding parts (as arteries).
Connie slipped the tenaculum under the patient's carotid artery.

tendency

n
/ 'tendənsē /

L
a proneness to or readiness for a particular kind of thought or action.
Tom's tendency to say exactly what he feels has gotten him into trouble several times.

tendon

n
/ 'tendən /

L
a tough cord of specialized fibrous connective tissue that unites a muscle with some other part and transmits the force which the muscle exerts.
The team doctor said that Larry's Achilles tendon was inflamed and that he shouldn't run in Saturday's race.

tendresse

n
/ tã'dres /

F
tender feeling : fondness.
Sarah portrayed the sister who, in maidenly fashion, conceals her tendresse for the hero.

tenebrific

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

tenebrosity

n
/ .tenə'bräsədə /

L
darkness.
Nocturnal animals moved silently through the tenebrosity of the forest.

tenet

n
/ 'tenət /

L
[has near homonym: tenant] a principle, dogma, belief, or doctrine generally held to be true; especially : one held in common by members of a group or profession.
The basic tenet of Central High's Key Club is that community service benefits everyone.

tennis

n
/ 'tenəs /
L > AF > E

[has homonym: tenace] a typically outdoor game that is played with rackets and a light elastic ball by two players or pairs of players on a level court divided by a low net.
Jeannine is so eager to learn to play tennis that she is willing to pay for lessons out of her allowance.

tenon

n
/ 'tenən /
L > F > E

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

tensible

adj
/ 'ten(t)səbəl /

L
capable of being extended.
The old rubber band was not very tensible.

tentacle

n
/ 'tentəkəl /

L
one of the arms of a cephalopod.
In the horror movie the giant octopus tried to grab the heroine with a long tentacle.

tentatively

adv
/ 'tentədəvnlē /

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

tenuous

adj
/ 'tenjəwəs /

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

tepid

adj
/ 'təpəd /

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

teratism

n
/ 'terətizəm /

Gk + Ecf
fascination with monsters.
Monster movies appeal to the teratism of the viewing public.

teratogenic

adj
/ .terətə'djenik /

Gk
tending to cause developmental malformations.
Sylvia carefully avoided any potentially teratogenic drugs during her pregnancy.

teratological

adj

/ .terətə'läjəkəl /

Gk

relating to abnormality of organic growth or structure.

*Because of his several deformities, the so-called "elephant man" was the subject of teratological study.***teratology**

n

/ .terə'täləjē /

Gk

the study of malformations, monstrosities, or serious deviations from the normal type in growing organisms.

*Because of his several deformities, the so-called "elephant man" is often featured in textbooks for courses in teratology.***tercentenary**

n

/ .tərsən'tenərə /

L

a 300th anniversary or its celebration.

*Next year Possumville will celebrate the tercentenary of its founding.***terdiurnal**

adj

/ .tərdi'ərnəl /

L

occurring three times per day.

*The meteorologist set his instrument to take terdiurnal measurements of the air pressure.***tergiversate**

v

/ 'tərdjəvər.sāt /

L

evade straightforward action or clearcut statement of position.

*While political leaders tergiversate, petty tyrants are taking over the country.***tergiversation**

n

/ .tərdjə(ɪ)vər'sāshən /

L

evasion of straightforward action or clear-cut statement of position.

*The ambassador explained that in diplomacy there is sometimes defensible tergiversation in communication.***termagancy**

n

/ 'tərməgənsē /

E name

habitual bad temper : scolding disposition.

*Lillian's abusive termagancy alienated her husband and children.***terrace**

n

/ 'terəs /

L > OProv > F

a colonnaded porch or promenade.

*The marketplace consisted of a row of shops along a terrace.***terraceous**

adj

/ .te'rāshəs /

L

made of earth : earthen.

*Bulldozers hurriedly built up a terraceous dam to prevent further flooding.***terrapin**

n

/ 'terəpən /

Algonquian

any of various North American turtles living in fresh or brackish water.

*Murray awoke from his lakeside nap to find a terrapin sunning on the blanket.***terraqueous**

adj

/ ter'ākweəs /

L

consisting of land and water.

*Global pollution threatens Earth's terraqueous environment.***terrarium**

n

/ tə'rerēəm /

L

a fully enclosed wholly or predominantly glass container for the indoor cultivation of moisture-loving plants.

*Mosses and other small woodland plants thrive in a terrarium.***terrazzo**

n

/ tə'rät(ɪ)sō /

OProv > It

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

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

adj

/ 'terəbəl /

L > F > E

requiring extreme effort or fortitude.

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

adj

/ te'rikələs /

L + L

living on or in or growing from the land.

*The heath was rich in terricolous lichens.***terrific**

adj

/ tə'rifik /

L

of an extraordinary nature : astounding, tremendous.

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

terrigenous

adj
/ tər'ɪjənəs /
L

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

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

tessitura

n
/ .tesə'tʃrə /
L > It

the general range of a melody or voice part; specifically : the part of the register in which most of the tones of a melody or voice part lie.
Soprano parts in Bellini's operas call for a very high tessitura.

testaceous

adj
/ te'stāshəs /
L

having a shell.

The oyster is a testaceous marine animal.

testimony

n
/ 'testə.mōnē /
L

a solemn declaration usually made orally by a witness under oath in response to interrogation by a lawyer or authorized public official.

According to Victoria's testimony, she had just returned from vacation when she discovered that the statue was missing.

tetanus

n
/ 'tet'nəs /
Gk

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

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

thalassic

adj
/ thə'lasɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the sea or ocean.

Some thalassic currents travel for thousands of miles.

thanatophobia

n
/ .θanətə'fɒbēə /
Gk

fear of death.

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

thaumatology

n
/ .θəʊmə'täləjē /
Gk

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

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

thaumaturgy

n
/ 'θəʊmə.tərjē /
Gk > L > F

the performance of miracles.

The sacred writings of many religions contain stories of thaumaturgy.

theatrical

adj
/ thē'atrəkəl /
Gk

marked by extravagant display or exhibitionism : showy, spectacular.

The performer took a theatrical bow, but the audience's applause was lukewarm.

theodicy

n
/ thē'ädəsē /
Gk > F

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

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

theodolite

n
/ thē'äd'līt /
Ar? > L > E

a surveyor's instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles.

The theodolite invented by Digges in the 16th century consisted of a horizontal graduated circular plate with an index bearing sights.

therapeutant

n
/ .therə'pyüt'nt /
Gk > E

a healing or curative agent or medicine.

The diseased elm trees were sprayed with a chemical therapeutant.

therapeutic

adj
/ .therə'pyüdɪk /
Gk

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

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

therblig

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

theretofore

adv

/ 'θɛrɪdəˌfɔ(ə)r /

E

up to that time : until then.

The public parks committee created a playground where theretofore there had been a weedy vacant lot.

therianthropic

adj

/ ˌθɪrɪˌænˈθrɪəpɪk /

Gk + Gk

combining human and animal form.

The falcon-headed Horus was a therianthropic god of ancient Egypt.

thermometer

n

/ θə(r)'mɪmɪtər /

Gk + Gk

an instrument for determining temperature.

The thermometer that takes a temperature reading from one's ear is now used widely.

thermostat

n

/ 'θɜrməstat /

Gk + Gk

an automatic device for regulating temperature (as by controlling the supply of gas or electricity to a heating apparatus).

The repair person found that our heating problem was caused by a defective thermostat.

thesaurus

n

/ θə'sɔrəs /

Gk > L

a book containing a store of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts; specifically : a dictionary of synonyms.

Caleb's paper read as if he had consulted a thesaurus frequently while writing it.

thesmothete

n

/ 'θɛzməˌθɛt /

Gk

lawgiver, legislator.

Joseph has in his office a marble bust of a famous Athenian thesmothete.

thespian

n

/ 'θɛspɪən /

Gk name

an actor.

Fiona became stagestruck at an early age and was determined to become a thespian.

thistle

n

/ 'θɪsəl /

E

a plant with prickly leaves having a head with white, purple, pink, or yellow flowers.

Dean plucked a thistle from the lawn of the middle school.

tholepin**thoracic**

adj

/ θə'rasɪk /

Gk

of, relating to, located within, or involving the part of the body of humans and other mammals located between the neck and the abdomen.

The thoracic nerve controls the muscles in the walls of the thorax.

thoracodynia

n

/ ˌθɔrəkə'dɪniə /

Gk

pain in the chest.

When Grandpa complained of thoracodynia, Dolly immediately took him to the hospital.

thorax

n

/ 'θɔrˌaks /

Gk > L > E

the portion of an insect body that is the middle of the three chief divisions.

The thorax of an insect consists of three segments, each having a pair of legs.

thoroughbred

n

/ 'θɜrəbred /

E

purebred or pedigreed animal.

Alex's thoroughbred comes from a line of Kentucky Derby winners.

threnody

n

/ 'θrɛnədē /

Gk

a song, poem, composition, or speech of lamentation especially for someone dead or something regarded as dead.

Asked to write a threnody for English class, Libby composed a song about the death of a robin.

threshold

n

/ 'θrɛsh(h)ɔld /

E

place or point of entering or beginning : entrance, outset.

Now at the threshold of adulthood, James wonders if he will miss the carefree days of his previous years.

thrombosis

n

/ θrəm'bɔsɪs /

Gk

the formation or presence of a blood clot within a blood vessel.

The severe pain in Greg's leg was found to have been caused by a thrombosis in one of the veins.

throstle

n
/ 'θrɒsəl /

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

thurible

n
/ 'θ(y)ʊrəbəl /
Gk > L > F > E

a vessel used in religious services for burning incense.
When a thurible is used in the procession, the odor of incense suffuses the church.

thylacine

n
/ 'θɪləsɪn /
Gk > L

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

thyme

n
/ 'tɪm /
Gk

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

thymiaterion

n
/ 'θɪmɪə'tɪrɪən /
Gk

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

tibia

n
/ 'tɪbɪə /
L

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

tichorrhine

n
/ 'tɪkə'rɪn /
Gk > L

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

tickicidal

adj
/ ,tɪkə'sɪdɪl /
E + L + Ecf

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

tickled

v
/ 'tɪkəld /
E

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

tightrope**tilak**

n
/ 'tɪlək /
Skt

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

tilapia

n
/ tə'lɪpɪə /
L

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

tilde

n
/ 'tɪldə /
L > Sp

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

timorously

adv
/ 'tɪm(ə)rəslē /
L

in a manner showing fear or apprehension.
Pam timorously responded to her name and said that she had not finished her book report.

tincture

n
/ 'tɪŋ(k)ʃə(r) /
L

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

tinnient

adj
/ 'tɪnɪənt /
L

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

tinnitus

n
/ tə'nɪdəs /

L
a ringing, roaring, or hissing in the ears that is purely subjective.

It's hard to understand how annoying tinnitus is unless you have experienced it yourself.

tirade

n
/ 'tɪrəd /

F
a protracted speech usually marked by abusive language.

The grumpy woman screamed a tirade of protest whenever children made joyful noises outside her window.

tiralee

n
/ .tɪrə'lē /

imit
[has homonym: tearily] a succession of musical notes (as in a bugle call).

Daniel managed a tiralee on the saxophone, but there was no recognizable melody.

titian

n
/ 'tɪʃən /

Ital name
one having hair that is brownish orange.

Mr. Rodman decided that he would be a titian for awhile.

toastmaster

n
/ 'təʊst.mastə(r) /

E+L > F > E
one that presides (as at a banquet) and introduces the after-dinner speakers.

Eric will serve as toastmaster at the Golden Lamp banquet.

tobacco

n
/ tə'ba(,)kəʊ /

Taino > Sp
the leaves of a plant of the genus *Nicotiana* prepared and processed for use in smoking or chewing or as snuff.

At an early age, Amy vowed never to use tobacco.

toboggan

n
/ tə'bəɡən /

Algonquian
a long flat-bottomed light sled made of thin boards curved up at one end with usually low handrails at the sides and used for coasting on snow or ice.

Bart's new toboggan is the fastest one on the hill.

tobogganer

n
/ tə'bəɡənər /

Algonquian > F
one that coasts on a long flat-bottomed light sled.

On hitting the unexpected bump, the tobogganer was thrown off his sled.

toccata

n
/ təkə'dɑ /

It
a brilliant musical composition usually for pipe organ or harpsichord, in free fantasia style, and usually with many equal-timed notes in rapid movement.

Jamila sat down at the church organ and played a fast Bach toccata.

tocsin

n
/ 'təksən /

L > OProv > F
[has homonym: toxin] an alarm bell or the ringing of a bell for the purpose of alarm.

In the event of a natural disaster or a civil alert, the fire stations would set off a tocsin that could be heard for two miles in any direction.

toggery**tome**

n
/ 'təʊm /

Gk
a volume forming part of a larger work.

Fiona bought an old copy of The Messages of the Presidents that was missing the first tome.

tonitruous

adj
/ tənɪtrəwəs /

L + Ecf
thundering, fulminating.

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

tonsillitis

n
/ .tən(t)səlɪdɪs /

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

tonsure

n
/ 'tənʃə(r) /

L > E
the shaven crown or patch worn by monks or various clerics.

The actor who played Brother Cadfael had a hairpiece to cover his tonsure when he was off camera.

tontine

n
/ 'tʌn.tēn /
It name > F

a financial arrangement whereby the participants share benefits equally on such terms that when one dies or defaults the others equally share the portion until all but one remains to own the entirety.

In the days before a central bank or common currency, villagers often used a tontine to share ownership of property.

toothache

n
/ 'tʊθ.āk /
E

pain in one of the teeth.

Nelson thought an abscess might be the cause of his toothache.

topaz

n
/ 'tɒ.paz /
Gk > L > F > E

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

topiary

n
/ 'tɒp.e.erē /
Gk > L + Lcf

the practice or art of training, cutting, and trimming trees or shrubs into odd or ornamental shapes.

Edward Scissorhands was skilled in topiary.

topography

n
/ tə'pɒgrəfē /
Gk

the art or practice of graphic delineation in detail usually on maps or charts of selected natural and man-made features of a region especially in a way to show their relative positions and elevations.

Identifying the enemy's rocket sites will require an expert in topography.

toreador

n
/ 'tɔːr.eɪ.də(ə)r /
L > Sp

bullfighter.

The toreador posed for the crowd in his suit of lights.

toroidal

adj
/ tɔːr'ɔɪdəl /
L

doughnut-shaped.

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

torrentially

adv
/ tɔː'rentʃəlē /
L

in a manner resembling a rushing stream of water.

Patricia wept torrentially when she found out about her pet dog's injury.

tortellini

n
/ .tɔː(r)dʰɪ'ɛnē /
L > It

noodle dough cut in rounds, filled with savory fillings, and boiled.

Vic's favorite Italian meal was tortellini stuffed with meat and cheese.

tortilla

n
/ tɔː(r)'tɛ(y)ə /
Sp

a round thin unleavened cake usually eaten hot with a savory topping or filling.

Theron covered his tortilla with beans and cheese.

tortoise

n
/ 'tɔːdəs /
F? > E

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

tortoni

n
/ tɔː(r)'tɒnē /
It name

an ice cream made of heavy cream, minced almonds, chopped maraschino cherries, or other flavorings.

Tortoni is definitely not the dessert for someone on a low-fat, low-calorie diet.

totality

n
/ tɔː'talədē /
L

the phase of an eclipse during which it is total : state of total eclipse.

An eerie silence crept over the crowd as the eclipse reached totality.

totemism

n
/ 'tɔːdə.mizəm /
Ojibwa + Ecf

belief in kinship with or a mystical relationship between a group or individual and an emblematic plant, animal, or other object.

Powerful animals are common objects of totemism.

tournedos

n
/ .tʊrnə'dɔː /
L > F

a small fillet of beef usually cut from the tip of the tenderloin.

Diane usually prepares a tournedos in wine sauce with mushrooms.

toxicosis

n
/ ˌtɒksəˈkɒsɪs /
Gk

a pathological condition caused by the action of a poison or toxin.

The chihuahua exhibited no symptoms of toxicosis after eating the soap.

toxophilite

n
/ tɒkˈsɒfəˌlɪt /
Gk + Gk + Ecf

one fond of or expert at archery.

The legendary toxophilite William Tell successfully shot an apple from the head of his own son.

tracheostomy

n
/ ˌtrækəˈɛstəmē /
Gk + Gk

the surgical formation of an opening into the trachea through the skin.

When Chris developed throat cancer, a tracheostomy had to be performed to facilitate his breathing.

tractable

adj
/ ˈtraktəbəl /
L

capable of being easily led, taught, or controlled.

Maybe Fatima's work would improve if she were more tractable.

tractile

adj
/ ˈtraktɪl /
L > Ecf

capable of being drawn out in length.

With laboratory equipment, Dr. Abrams was able to extend the tractile material to a great length.

trafficking

v
/ ˈtræfɪkɪŋ /
It > F

engaging in commercial activity.

The townspeople were shocked when they learned that Mr. Bailey had been trafficking in drugs.

tragedienne

n
/ trəˌjɛdēˈen /
F

[Note: Could be confused with tragedian.] an actress who specializes in tragic roles.

On Thursday night, Ms Siddons, the granddaughter of the tragedienne, made her first appearance.

tramontana

n
/ ˌtræ(ɪ)mɒnˈtænə /
L > It

the north wind; especially : a dry cold strong northerly wind of the west coast of Italy.

Each winter the tramontana swoops piercingly through the streets of Rome.

transcend**transcendental**

adj
/ ˌtræn.senˈdentəl /
L

extending or being beyond the limits of ordinary experience.

Edward's transcendental meditation guru also instructs him in yoga.

transducer

n
/ tran(t)sˈd(y)üsə(r) /
L + Ecf

a device actuated by power from one system and supplying power in the same or any other form to a second system.

A common transducer is a microphone, which converts sound waves into electrical signals.

transference

n
/ tranzˈfɛrən(t)s /
L

an act, process, or instance of carrying or taking something from one person or place to another.

Ralph's dad was in charge of the transference of fish from the fishery to the lake being restocked.

transience

n
/ ˈtranzēənts /
L

[has homonym: transients] the quality or state of passing through or by only briefly.

The photographer is able to capture transience by being ready to click the shutter at the crucial moment.

transit

n
/ ˈtran(t)sət /
L

the passage of a smaller body across the disk of a larger (as of Venus or Mercury across the Sun's disk).

Barrie used sensitive equipment to photograph the transit of Venus.

transmissible

adj
/ tran(t)'smisəbəl /
L

capable of being sent or conveyed to another person or place.

Poison ivy is transmissible through the air to those who are very sensitive to it.

transmogrify

v
/ tran(t)'smägrəfɪ /
unknown

change or alter in form, appearance, or structure often with grotesque or humorous effect.
Buford set out to transmogrify the hearse into a hot rod.

trattoria

n
/ ˌträdə'rɛə /
F > It

an eating house : restaurant.
It seems to Fran that any trattoria located next to the golf course fails, regardless of the cuisine.

trauma

n
/ 'traümə /
Gk

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

traumatropism

n
/ trə'matrəpizəm /
Gk

a modification of the orientation of an organ (as a plant root) as a result of wounding.
Traumatropism of the roots does not usually affect plant growth.

traversed

v
/ trə'vərst /
L > F > E

moved to and fro over or along.
Zane serenely traversed the frozen pond.

treacherous

adj
/ 'trech(ə)rəs /
F > E

characterized by usually hidden dangers, hazards, or perils.
Throughout the winter, frigid temperatures and the damp sea air cause treacherous black ice to form on streets.

treacly

adj
/ 'trɛk(ə)lɪ /
Gk > F > L > E

heavily sweet and cloying.
Sarah's treacly voice warned her mother that a big request was forthcoming.

treadmill

n
/ 'tred.mil /
E + E

a device operated by walking on an endless belt for the purpose of exercise.
Walking on a treadmill in his apartment was convenient, but Sam preferred to get his exercise outside, weather permitting.

treason

n
/ 'trɛzən /
L > F > E

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

treatise

n
/ 'trɛdɪs /
F? > AF > E

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

treble

adj
/ 'trebəl /
F > E
threefold.

Whatever might be their motive or motives—whether single, double, or treble—their actions were unjustified.

trefoil

n
/ 'trɛ.fɔɪl /
L > F > E

any of the common clovers.
The hunter came upon several rabbits feeding on a patch of trefoil.

tremendous

adj
/ trə'mendəs /
L

astonishing by reason of extreme size, power, greatness, or excellence.
Computers have had a tremendous impact on modern business practices.

tremulous

adj
/ 'tremjələs /

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

trenchantly

adv
/ 'trenchəntli /

F > E
in a sharply perceptive manner.
The commentator trenchantly analyzed the pros and cons of legalized gambling.

trespass

v
/ 'trespəs /

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

trey

n
/ 'tri /

L > F > E
[has homonym: tray] the side of a die or domino that has three spots.
If Ian draws either a trey or an ace from the boneyard, he believes he will win the game of dominoes.

triage

n
/ 'tri:əzh /

F
the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors.
Once the system of triage was implemented, medics were better able to decide which soldiers should receive immediate treatment.

trianon

n
/ 'tri:ənən /

F architecture
a small elegant villa.
Albert wrote his latest thriller in a rented trianon on the Riviera.

tribunal

n
/ 'tri:'byün¹l /

L
a court or forum of justice.
The people have wisely provided, in the constitution itself, a tribunal for settling questions of constitutional law.

tributary

n
/ 'tribjətəri /

L
a stream feeding a larger stream or a lake.
The Ohio River is a tributary of the Mississippi River.

tricenary

adj
/ 'tris³n.eri /

L
having or lasting 30 days.
Cameron never can remember which months are tricenary.

tricephalous

adj
/ 'tri:'sefələs /

Gk
having or depicted with three heads.
Orpheus managed to lull the tricephalous watchdog to sleep by playing his lyre.

trichinosis

n
/ .tri:kə'nōsəs /

Gk
infestation with or disease caused by certain nematode worms contracted by eating raw or undercooked infested food and especially pork.
Madeline cooked the pork chops well so there would be no danger of trichinosis.

trichogenous

adj
/ .tri:kə'jənəs /

Gk
producing hair.
Trichogenous cells produce the tiny hairs on insect bodies and limbs.

trichotomy

n
/ 'tri:kədə.mē /

Gk
a system divided or divisible into three constituents or elements.
Golda's civics teacher explained how the United States government is a trichotomy, divided into the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.

trigonometry

n
/ .tri:gə'nämətəri /

Gk
a branch of mathematics dealing with the relations holding among the sides and angles of triangles and among closely related magnitudes and especially with methods of deducing from given parts other required parts.
Rachel enjoyed her course in trigonometry much more than she enjoys her calculus class.

Trinity

n
/ 'trinədə /

L > F > E
the union of three persons or personified concepts (as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) in one godhead so that all the three are one God as to substance but three persons or concepts as to individuality.
The Catholic Church once excommunicated believers in the false Trinity of God, Mary, and Jesus.

triquetra

n
/ trī'kwētrə /
L

a triangle-shaped figure or decoration.

Murray stenciled a leafy triquetra in each corner of the kitchen ceiling.

triskelion

n
/ trī'skelēən /
Gk

a figure composed of three usually curved or bent branches radiating from a center.

A triskelion has been the emblem of the Isle of Man since the 13th century, when the Vikings were ousted.

triste

adj
/ 'trēst /
L > F > E

sad, dismal, dull, depressing.

A triste quartet could be heard from the window.

triumvirate

n
/ trī'əmvrət /
L

a group, party, or association of three.

Vince, Steve, and Phil jokingly refer to themselves as the "terrible triumvirate."

trivet

n
/ 'trivət /
L > E

a usually ornamental metal stand with short feet especially for use under a hot dish at a table.

A brass trivet featuring the local college's insignia is the best-selling item in the gift shop.

trochanter

n
/ trō'kantə(r) /
Gk > L

the second segment counting from the base of the leg of an insect.

A trochanter is one of the five parts of an insect's leg.

trocheometer

n
/ 'trākē'amədə(r) /
Gk? + Gk > E

an instrument used to count the revolutions of a wheel.

According to the trocheometer attached to one of the wagon wheels, the wagon train had traveled 30 miles.

trodden

v
/ 'träd'n /
E

walked or trampled upon something.

The cattle had trodden over the field, flattening the tall grass and weeds.

troglodyte

n
/ 'trɔglədīt /
Gk > L

a member of a primitive people dwelling in caves or pits.

While spelunking, Zan and Patrick stumbled on the bones of a troglodyte.

troika

n
/ 'trōikə /
Russ

a group of three.

Astrology, yoga, and poetry are the troika of humanities that most interest Bryce.

trophallaxis

n
/ ,träfə'laksəs /
Gk > L

exchange of food between organisms (as the social insects).

Bees, ants, and wasps practice trophallaxis.

tropicopolitan

adj
/ ,trəpəkō'pələt'n /
Gk

inhabiting all countries near the equator.

Today the coconut palm is a tropicopolitan species.

trophilous

adj
/ trō'päfələs /
Gk + Gk

thriving in an environment that undergoes marked periodic changes (as in temperature, soil moisture, or available light).

Deciduous trees of the temperate regions are examples of trophilous plants.

trough

n
/ 'trɒf /
E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an elongated area of low barometric pressure usually with a minimum pressure at each end and between two areas of higher pressure.

Eric listened to the weather forecaster explain how the local weather was being influenced by the trough that was present.

trousseau

n
/ 'trü(.)sō /
F

[Note: Plural form can be pronounced similarly.] the personal possessions of a bride usually including clothes, accessories, and household linens and wares.

Felicity kept her trousseau in a hope chest at the foot of her bed.

truculent

adj

/ 'trʌkyələnt /

L

feeling or evincing savage ferocity
: fierce.

*Hunger makes the tiger a truculent
hunter.*

truncated

adj

/ 'trʌŋ.kədʒd /

L

abbreviated by or as if by lopping.

Cindy's cat has a truncated tail.

trunnioned

adj

/ 'trʌnyənd /

F

having a pin or pivot usually
mounted on bearings for rotating or
tilting.

*Dave attached a trunnioned
compass to the deck of his sailboat.*

truttaceous

adj

/ 'trʌ'tʃshəs /

L

of, relating to, or resembling a
trout.

*Truttaceous fish are highly
esteemed as sport fish because of
their spiritedness.*

tsunami

n

/ (t)sü'nämē /

Jpn

a great sea wave produced by
submarine earth movements or
volcanic eruption.

*The dock workers were alerted in
time to evacuate the harbor area
before the tsunami hit*

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tuberculosis

n
/ tə'bærkyə'lōsəs /

L
a communicable disease caused by the tubercle bacillus and characterized by toxic symptoms or allergic manifestations which in humans primarily affect the lungs.
The antibiotic drug streptomycin has been successfully used to treat tuberculosis.

tufaceous

adj
/ t(y)ü'fāshəs /

Osc-Umbrian > L > It
of or resembling a rock composed of the finer kinds of volcanic debris.
Many buildings in Italy were constructed of tufaceous rock.

tuffet

n
/ 'təfət /

Gmc? > F? > E
a low seat : stool.
Katie stood on the tuffet to reach the book on the top shelf.

tularemia

n
/ .tülə'rēmēə /

Calif geog name + Lcf
a bacterial disease of rodents, man, and some domestic animals.
Jerry's temperature reached a dangerously high level during his bout with tularemia.

tumultuous

adj
/ t(y)ü'məlch(ə)wəs /

L
full of commotion and uproar : boisterous.
As the basketball star entered, he received tumultuous applause from his schoolmates.

tumulus

n
/ 't(y)ümyələs /

L
[has homonym: tumulous] an artificial hillock or mound (as over a grave).
In the center of the cemetery is a large tumulus where one of the town's founders is buried.

tundra

n
/ 'tʌndrə /

Finno-Ugric > Russ
a treeless plain characteristic of arctic and subarctic regions with a permanently frozen subsoil.
Do reindeer graze on the moss of the tundra?

tungsten

n
/ 'tʌŋstən /

Sw
a gray-white high-melting hard metallic element that is used in the pure form chiefly for electrical purposes (as for filaments for incandescent lamps).
The filament in many light bulbs is a thin wire of tungsten.

turban

n
/ 'tərbən /

Per > Turk > F
a headdress worn chiefly in countries of the eastern Mediterranean and southern Asia especially by Muslims and made of a cap around which is wound a long cloth.
A camel driver wearing a blue turban asked Rebecca if she would like a short ride.

turbine

n
/ 'tərbən /

L > F
[has homonym: turban] a rotary engine.
The plane could not take off until the damaged turbine was repaired.

typhology

n
/ ti'fläləjē /
Gk

the scientific study of blindness, its causes, effects, and control.

Researchers in typhology have found that certain nutritional deficiencies can result in the clouding and softening of the cornea.

typhoon

n
/ ti'fün /
Gk&Chinese

a tropical cyclone occurring in the region of the Philippines or the China Sea.

A typhoon of unimaginable fury swung across the coastal plains of Bangladesh, swallowing up villages and sweeping away food crops.

typify

v
/ 'tipə.fi /
L + Ecf

embody the essential or salient characteristics of.

Dickens's characters typify the Victorian era.

tyrannical

adj
/ tə'ranəkəl /
Gk

exhibiting imperious and usually oppressive exercise of absolute power : despotic.

Patrick Henry spoke fervently about the urgent need to arrest the tyrannical hands of the British ministry and Parliament.

tyranny

n
/ 'tirənē /
L > F > E

absolute government in which power is vested in a single ruler.

The tyranny of many medieval kingdoms was eventually supplanted by democracy.

ubiquitous

adj
/ yü'bikwədəs /
L

existing or being everywhere at the same time : omnipresent.

The drum is a ubiquitous instrument in world music.

udometer

n
/ yü'dämədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for measuring the quantity of precipitation that falls at a given place and time.

The local television station asked Karen to put a udometer in her backyard.

ulotrichous

adj
/ yü'lät'rəkəs /
Gk + Gk

having woolly or crisp hair.

The ulotrichous aborigines crafted wide-toothed combs for their hair.

ulterior

adj
/ əl'tirēə(r) /
L

not apparent : hidden.

When Sherman volunteered to walk the dog, his ulterior motive was to escape the boring conversation in the house.

ultimatum

n
/ əltə'mädəm /
L

a final proposition, condition, or demand; especially : one whose rejection will end negotiations and cause a resort to force or other direct action.

If the striking workers refused its ultimatum, the company threatened to close the factory permanently.

ultraviolet

adj
/ əltrə'viələt /
L + L > F > E

situated beyond the visible spectrum at the violet end and having a wavelength shorter than visible light and longer than X rays.

Arthur purchased sunglasses that provide some protection against ultraviolet radiation.

ululation

n
/ əlyə'lāshən /
L

a loud mournful usually protracted and rhythmical sound : howl.

An ululation from deep in the woods gave Jesse goosebumps.

umbilical

adj
/ əm'biləkəl /
L

attached by or as if by a cord arising at the navel that connects a fetus with the placenta.

Important medical research is being done with stem cells obtained from umbilical cords.

umbra

n
/ 'əmbərə /
L

a shaded area : darkness.

Trent saw something flicker in the umbra beneath the side porch.

umbrage

n
/ 'əmbrij /
L > F > E

displeasure, resentment,
annoyance.

*Hatred between nations disposes
each more readily to offer insult
and injury and lay hold of slight
causes of umbrage.*

umbrageous

adj
/ .əm'brājəs /
L > F > E

providing protection from heat and
light : shady.

*Sherwood Forest was the
umbrageous domain of the
legendary Robin Hood and his
outlaw band.*

umlaut

n
/ 'üm.laüt /
G

a diacritical mark composed of two
adjacent dots placed especially over
a German vowel to indicate a
vowel shift.

*Gary never knew how to pronounce
words with an umlaut until he
studied German.*

umpire

n
/ 'əm.pī(ə)r /
L > F > E

one having authority to arbitrate
and make a final decision, as an
official in a sport who rules on the
plays.

*The coach vehemently objected
when the umpire ejected the player
for unsportsmanlike conduct.*

unanimous

adj
/ yü'nänəməs /
L

being of one mind : agreeing in
opinion, design, or determination.
*The advice given the candidate by
those in his confidence was
unanimous.*

unau

n
/ yü'nó /
Tupi > F

a two-toed sloth of Central and
South America.

*The unau seldom descends to the
ground because its slow movements
make it easy prey for jaguars and
other predators.*

unciferous

adj
/ .ən'sif(ə)rəs /
L

bearing a hook or hooklike
structure.

*Weaving and other fiber arts
involve the use of several
unciferous tools.*

uncinate

adj
/ 'ən(t)sənət /
L

bent at the tip like a hook.

*Using a magnifying glass, Chad
was able to examine the insect's
uncinate antennae.*

unconscionable

adj
/ .ən'känch(ə)nəbəl /
Ecf + L + Ecf

not guided or controlled by an
internal sense of right or wrong :
unscrupulous.

*The governor was denounced for
his unconscionable indifference to
the plight of the homeless.*

uncouth

adj
/ .ən'küth /
Ecf + E

lacking in polish and grace.

*Last night we watched a movie
about turning an uncouth high
school student into a princess.*

undulate

v
/ 'ənjələt /
L

form or move in waves.

*Terry stood on the shore and
watched the ocean undulate in the
moonlight.*

unexceptionable

adj
/ .ənik'sepsh(ə)nəbəl /
Ecf + L

not open or liable to objection,
criticism, or reproach :

unimpeachable.

*Mr. Weston was a man of
unexceptionable character, easy
fortune, suitable age, and pleasant
manners.*

unfurl

v
/ .ən'fərl /
Ecf + L > F

release or open out from a rolled-up
state.

*Kendra embroidered her school's
motto on the new flag she will
unfurl during tomorrow's
assembly.*

