

ombrophobe

n
/ 'ämbrə.fōb /
Gk + Gk

a plant incapable of withstanding long-continued rain.

Excessive rain can cause the leaves of an ombrophobe to decay and fall.

omens

n pl
/ 'ömənz /
L

occurrences believed to portend or show the character of a future event.

Losing his lucky coin and spilling the salt were omens that pointed to a bad day ahead for Nick.

onomastic

adj
/ 'änə.mastik /
Gk

[Note: Could be confused with onomastics.] of, relating to, or consisting of a name or names.

Pape's onomastic lexicon is immeasurably useful to students of ancient Greece.

onychophagia

n
/ .änəkō'fāj(ē)ə /
Gk

nail-biting.

Resa applied a bitter substance to her nails in hopes of curing her onychophagia.

oomycete

n
/ .ōə'mī.sēt /
Gk + Gk

a fungus of a subclass of parasitic or saprophytic fungi that includes water molds, white rusts, and downy mildews.

A new fungicide has been developed to combat the oomycete causing root rot in many crops.

ooporphyrin

n
/ .ōə'pò(r)fərən /
Gk + Gk

a pale brown pigment in eggshells (as of the domestic hen).

Julia explained to her young daughter that the ooporphyrin in brown-shelled eggs in no way alters their quality.

ooze

n
/ 'üz /
E

a stretch or piece of muddy ground.

Without a moment's hesitation they started through a puddle of sticky ooze, which quickly became ankle-deep.

opacate

v
/ ɔ'pākāt /
L

make impervious to the rays of visible light.

Because even a small amount of daylight awakens Scott, he uses special shades that opacate his windows.

operoseness

n
/ .äpə'rōsnəs /
L + Ecf

the quality of requiring or involving effort or labor.

The diplomat was not discouraged by the operoseness and slowness of the negotiations.

ophidian

adj
/ ɔ'fidēən /
Gk

of, relating to, or resembling that of snakes : snakelike.

Medusa's ophidian hairdo is a tidbit from mythology that many students never forget.

oppress

v
/ ə'pres /

L
burden spiritually or mentally as if by pressure : weigh heavily upon.
Feelings of failure oppress Candice from time to time.

oppressive

adj
/ ə'presiv /

L
overpowering or depressing to the spirit or senses.
The troops battled the oppressive heat by drinking large amounts of water.

opsimath

n
/ 'apsə.math /

Gk
a person who begins to learn late in life.
The opsimath earned his high school diploma at 77 and his college degree at 80.

optician

n
/ əp'tiʃən /

Gk > L > F
one that grinds spectacle lenses to prescription and dispenses spectacles.
The new optician in town is offering a special price on prescription sunglasses.

optics

n pl
/ 'əptiks /

Gk
a science that deals with light.
In the antiquarian shop, Liza found a 125-year-old book on optics.

oracular

adj
/ ɔ'rakylə(r) /

L
resembling an authoritative or wise expression especially in solemnity of delivery.
Oz's oracular pronouncement impressed Dorothy and her friends.

oratorio

n
/ ɔ'rə'tɔriə /

L > It
a musical composition having a libretto based usually on a scriptural subject and consisting typically of recitatives, arias, choruses, orchestral interludes and accompaniment, and sometimes spoken dialogue but having no action, scenery, or costume.
Handel's oratorio Messiah is performed annually at the cathedral.

orbicularity

n
/ ɔ(r).bikyə'larədə /

L
the quality or state of resembling or having the form of an orb or globe.
The geologist noted the stone's highly unusual orbicularity.

ordinal

n
/ 'ord(ə)nəl /

L
a number designating the place (as first, second, third) occupied by any item in an ordered sequence.
The ordinal for the number one is first.

orenda

n
/ ɔ'rendə /

Wyandot
extraordinary invisible power.
The medicine man relied on his orenda to control others.

orexis

n
/ ɔ'reksəs /

Gk > L
the feeling and striving aspect of mind as contrasted with the intellectual.
Anyone who has watched a baby learn to walk knows that the human orexis is innately strong.

organic

adj
/ ɔ(r)'ganik /

Gk
being, containing, or relating to carbon compounds.
Fadela's science fiction novel starts with the discovery of organic compounds on Jupiter.

orismology

n
/ ˈɔrəz'mäləjē /
Gk + Gk

the science of defining technical terms.

At the conference of botanists, problems relating to orismology were discussed with reference especially to terms used in plant pathology.

ornithoid

adj
/ ˈɔ(r)nə.thɔɪd /
Gk

birdlike.

The ornithoid statue in Walcott Park is always covered with pigeons.

orthopterology

n
/ (ɪ)ɔ(r).θäptə'räləjē /
Gk > L

the study of insects with mouthparts fitted for chewing, two pairs of wings or none, and an incomplete metamorphosis.

The study of crickets and grasshoppers, cockroaches, mantises, and stick insects is included in orthopterology.

ortstein

n
/ ˈɔrt.stɪn /
G

a cemented or compacted and often clayey layer in soil that hampers root penetration and may be caused by repeated plowing to the same depth.

The local soil contains so much clay that the farmers have had to use special techniques to avoid turning their fields to ortstein.

oscillometer

n
/ ˌäsə'lämədə(r) /
L + Gk

an instrument for measuring the changes in pulsations in the arteries.

Some blood pressure instruments are equipped with an oscillometer to measure the pressure fluctuations within the bag.

oscitancy

n
/ ˌäsədənsē /
L

drowsiness usually demonstrated by yawns.

By the third day of testimony on blood types, oscitancy had swept the courtroom.

osier

n
/ ˈɔzhə(r) /
L > F > E

any of various willows whose pliable twigs are used for furniture and basketry.

The children wove many small baskets with the twigs of the osier.

Osirian

adj
/ ɔ'sɪrɪən /

Egyptian name

of or relating to Osiris, ancient Egyptian god of the underworld.

Thanks to Plutarch, the Osirian legend was recorded for posterity.

osmoscope

n
/ ˈäzmə.skɔp /
Gk

an instrument for detecting and measuring odors.

The inspector used an osmoscope to find the gas leak in the basement.

osseous

adj
/ ˈäsēəs /
L

[has near homonym: Aussies]
composed of or resembling bone : bony.

The oyster is protected by its osseous shell.

ossificatory

adj
/ ə'sɪfəkətɔrē /
L

of or involving the process of bone formation.

A poor diet can easily interfere with the ossificatory process.

osteopath

n
/ ˈästēə.path /
Gk

a practitioner of a system of medical practice based on the theory that diseases are due chiefly to a loss of structural integrity in the tissues.

If Dr. Fletcher can't cure Reba's headaches, she plans to consult an osteopath.

osteophyte

n
/ ˈästēə.fɪt /
Gk

a small pathological bony outgrowth.

George's back pain was caused by an osteophyte on one of his vertebrae.

ostium

n
/ 'ästēəm /

L
one of the lateral slits in the heart of an arthropod by which the blood enters from the pericardium.
The ostium allows blood to reenter the insect's heart from the insect's one blood vessel, which runs dorsally the length of its body.

otherworldly**otiose**

adj
/ 'ōshē.ōs /

L
being at leisure or at ease : idle, unemployed.
The otiose travelers slept until nearly noon.

otiosity

n
/ 'ōshē'äsədē /

L > F
the quality or state of lacking use, effect, or function.
Mr. Simmons advised that complaining about the power outage would be an exercise in otiosity, because nothing could be done about it.

otorhinology

n
/ 'ōdər.īnō.larən'gäləjē /

Gk
a branch of medicine that deals with the ear, nose, and throat and their diseases and disorders.
The Cleveland Clinic's department of otorhinology examined a rock group and found that all its members suffered from laryngitis.

otoscope

n
/ 'ōdəskōp /

Gk + Gk
an instrument fitted with lighting and magnifying lens systems and used to facilitate visual inspection of the auditory canal and ear drum.
Dr. Jamison peered through the otoscope into Kayla's ear.

ounce

n
/ 'aun(t)s /

L > F > E
a unit of weight equal to 1/16 avoirdupois pound.
To understand why gold is sold by the ounce and silver is sold by the pound, check the prices.

oust

v
/ 'aüst /

L > F > AF
put out of possession : eject, dispossess from, or deprive of an inheritance.
The rebels met in secret and voted to oust the king by force if necessary.

ouvert

adj
/ ü've(ə)r /

F
having an open stance or movement in ballet.
The prima ballerina demonstrated an ouvert plié to the class.

overwhelm

v
/ ,ōvə(r)'(h)welm /

E
overthrow and bury beneath : engulf completely.
Mudslides can overwhelm entire communities in a matter of minutes.

overwrought

adj
/ ,ōvə(r)'rōt /

E
suffering from or revealing nervous strain : agitated.
Randy's parents are overwrought by his desire to get a tattoo.

ovibos

n
/ 'ōvəbäs /

L
a heavyset shaggy-coated wild ox now confined to Greenland and the barren northern lands of North America—called also “musk ox.”
The horns of the ovibos grow sideways from the skull, curving downward at the sides of the head and then upwards at the ends.

ovine

adj
/ 'ō.vīn /

L
of, being, or relating to sheep.
Selena wrote a paper on infectious ovine diseases for the veterinary journal.

oxford

n

/ 'äksfə(r)d /

E geog name

a low-cut usually laced shoe coming to the instep.

The salesclerk suggested a saddle oxford as a comfortable everyday shoe.

oxidization

n

/ 'äksədə'zāshən /

Gk > F

the act or process of chemically adding oxygen to.

Oxidization is part of the process of releasing energy during the metabolism of carbohydrates.

ozone

n

/ 'ō,zōn /

Gk > G

an allotropic triatomic form of oxygen that is normally a faintly blue irritating gas with a characteristic pungent odor.

While browsing through the magazine, Ken learned that ozone is formed in the atmosphere by a process involving diatomic oxygen and solar radiation.

pachymeter

n

/ pə'kimədə(r) /

Gk

an instrument for measuring thickness (as of paper).

The paper mill's superintendent of quality control finally ordered an electronic pachymeter.

padre

n

/ 'pä(,)drā /

L > Sp or It or Pg

a military chaplain.

*Father Mulcahey, the base chaplain on the television series M*A*S*H, was often referred to as "the padre."*

paduasoy

n

/ 'pajəwəsōi /

It geog name + F

a rich heavy corded silk fabric for clothing and upholstery.

The Venetian prince wore a tunic of embroidered paduasoy.

pahoehoe

n

/ pə'hōē.hōē /

Hawaiian

cooled hard lava marked by a smooth often billowy shiny surface.

The geologist showed the class samples of different types of lava, including pahoehoe.

palatalize

v

/ 'paləd'ɪlɪz /

L + Ecf

pronounce with the front of the tongue near or touching the hard roof of the mouth.

English speakers palatalize the first n in the word onion.

paleography

n

/ ,pālē'ägrəfē /

Gk

the study of ancient modes of writing including inscriptions.

The museum turned over the mysterious stone tablets to a specialist in paleography.

Paleozoic

adj

/ ,pālēə'zōik /

Gk

of or relating to a division of geological history from the beginning of the Cambrian to the close of the Permian periods.

Seed-bearing plants and amphibians first appeared in the Paleozoic era.

pales

n pl

/ 'pālz /

L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has homonym: pails.] slats fastened to a rail at top and bottom for fencing : pickets.

They now walked on together quietly till within view of the vicarage pales.

palfrey

n

/ 'pɒlfre /

(Gk + Gaulish > L) > F > E

a saddle horse other than a war-horse having a light, easy gait.

With his war-horse lame, the knight had no other choice but to ride a palfrey.

palingenesis

n

/ ,palən'jenəsəs /

Gk

renewal by or as if by rebirth, as the doctrine of reincarnation.

The discussion of palingenesis started with the illustration of an oak tree producing acorns, which, in turn, produce oak trees.

palisado

n

/ ,palə'sādō /

L > OProv > Sp

a fence of stakes used especially for defense.

*Irwin's group walked along the fort's entire palisado while the tour guide talked endlessly.***palladian**

adj

/ pə'lādēən /

Gk > L

of or relating to wisdom or learning.

*Ike tries to strike a balance between palladian pursuits and recreational activities.***pallid**

adj

/ 'paləd /

L

lacking in brightness or intensity : pale—used of a color or a colored object.

*Today's pallid sky contrasts sharply with yesterday's brilliant blue one.***palpus**

n

/ 'pal.pəs /

L

a segmented process attached to a mouthpart of an arthropod, usually having a tasting or feeling function.

*Jack found a species of grasshopper with an unusually large palpus.***paludicolous**

adj

/ ,palyə'dikələs /

L

living or thriving in a marshy environment.

*The campers were not used to the nightly cacophony of the nearby paludicolous frogs.***palynological**

adj

/ ,palənə'lājəkəl /

Gk

concerned with pollen or pollen grains.

*Dr. Wickes hopes that her palynological research will some day help many who suffer from allergies.***pampas**

n pl

/ 'pampəz /

Quechua&Aymara > Sp

extensive generally grass-covered plains of temperate South America east of the Andes.

*Morrie dreams of being a gaucho on the Argentine pampas.***pampero**

n

/ pam'perō /

AmerSp

a strong cold wind from the west or southwest that sweeps over the pampas of South America from the Andes.

*The cattle were huddled together with their backs turned into the pampero.***panachage**

n

/ ,panə'shāzh /

F

a variation of the list system that allows a voter to redistribute names from several party lists into a list having names in an order of his or her own choice.

*Harry proposed panachage as an alternative to the old procedure.***panached**

adj

/ pə'nasht /

F

variegated with stripes of color.
*Donna planted a bed of red and white panached tulips.***panama**

n

/ 'panə.mä /

Tupi > Central American geog name

a fine lightweight hat of natural-colored straw hand-plaited of narrow strips from the young leaves of the jipijapa.

*While on a tropical vacation, Mr. Pease bought a white, hand-woven panama to shade his head.***panchreston**

n

/ pan'krestən /

Gk

a broadly inclusive and often oversimplified thesis that is intended to cover all possible variations within an area of concern.

*Michael's doctoral advisor gently explained that his thesis was a panchreston and needed to be more focused.***pandowdy**

n

/ pan'daüdē /

unknown

a deep-dish apple dessert that is spiced; sweetened with sugar, molasses, or maple syrup; and covered with a rich biscuit crust and baked.

Mother serves pandowdy, our favorite dessert, whenever visitors stay for dinner.

Panglossian

adj

/ pan'gläsēən /

(Gk + Gk) > F literary name marked by the view that "all is for the best in this best of possible worlds."

The coach's Panglossian attitude lifted his team's sagging spirits.

pangolin

n

/ 'pangələn /

Malay

any of a family of Asian and African toothless mammals having the body covered with large overlapping horny scales and feeding chiefly on ants.

Because of its overlapping scales, the pangolin is sometimes called a walking artichoke.

panophobia

n

/ ,panə'fōbēə /

L + Gk

a condition of vague nonspecific anxiety : generalized fear.

For several days after the earthquake, Rachel experienced a mild panophobia.

panoply

n

/ 'panəplē /

Gk

a magnificent or impressive array.
The panoply of wildflowers in the meadow took away Carla's breath.

Pansil

n

/ 'pan(t)səl /

Skt > Pali > Singhalese

[Note: Could be confused with

pencil.] the rite in Hinayana

Buddhism of undertaking

ceremonially a set of five precepts of morality.

Pansil is taken individually before a Buddhist shrine or collectively at the beginning of a Buddhist meeting of any kind.

pansit

n

/ 'pän(t)sət /

Tag

a Chinese noodle dish of the Philippines.

As more and more ethnic restaurants open, Americans are becoming familiar with dishes such as pansit.

pantheon

n

/ 'pan(t)thē.än /

Gk

a temple dedicated to all the gods.

The pantheon in Rome has survived remarkably intact since ancient times.

pantometer

n

/ pan'tämədə(r) /

Gk > F

a device for measuring all angles.

The pantometer can be used to measure all sorts of angles, lengths, and heights.

papillote

n

/ 'papəlɒt /

L > F

a greased paper wrapper in which food is cooked and served.

Harvey carefully peeled the colored papillote from his chocolate cupcake.

parabola

n

/ pə'rəbələ /

Gk + Gk

a plane curve generated in such a manner that it is equal to a conic section formed by the intersection of a cone with a plane parallel to an element of the cone.

The high fly ball described a parabola in the air.

paragoge

n

/ 'parəgōjē /

Gk

the addition of a sound or syllable to the end of a word.

By paragoge, the word golden was formed from the word gold.

paralogism

n

/ pə'ralə,jizəm /

Gk

a reasoning contrary to logical rules or formulas.

The debate team was defeated once its paralogism was exposed.

parapetless

adj

/ˈpærəpətɫəs/

L > It + Ecf

not having a wall, rampart or elevation designed to protect soldiers.

The castle was parapetless, the two towers having been destroyed by cannon fire a century earlier.

parapraxia

n

/ˌpærəˈpraksɪə/

Gk

a faulty act (as a slip of the tongue or of memory) : blunder, lapse.

One parapraxia after another caused Mr. Aiken to wonder if he was in the early stages of senility.

parapsychology

n

/ˌpærəsiˈkäləjē/

Gk

a science concerned with the investigation especially by experimental means of events that are considered to be evidence of mental telepathy, clairvoyance, and psychokinesis.

Those claiming to be experts in parapsychology find it easy to gain attention in the tabloid press.

paraquat

n

/ˈpærəkwt/

Gk + L

an herbicide that is used especially as a weed killer.

The DEA officials sprayed paraquat on the marijuana fields.

paratactic

adj

/ˌpærəˈtæktɪk/

Gk

of, relating to, or exhibiting coordinate ranging of clauses, phrases, or words one after another without coordinating connectives.

Herodotus was cited as an example of an author who used a paratactic style.

parentage

n

/ˈpær(ə)rɛntɪj/

L > F + Ecf

descent from ancestors : lineage.

The earl asked his valet, "Can you tell me anything of the parentage of the lady in this photo?"

paretry

n

/ˈpærjɛtrē/

E

ornamental plaster or stucco relief work applied to a flat surface.

The corridors of the mansion were ornamented with a variety of paretry.

parish

n

/ˈpærɪʃ/

Gk > L > F > E

[has near homonym: perish] the ecclesiastical unit of area

committed to one pastor;

collectively : the residents of such area or the members of one church.

Father Johnson bought a car so he could visit everyone in his parish.

parliamentary

adj

/ˌpærləˈmentərē/

F > E

of, relating to, or having the nature of a supreme legislative body of a usually major political unit.

Members of the Senate were asked not to delay parliamentary business with lengthy speeches.

parmesan

n

/ˈpærməˌzæn/

It geog name

a very hard dry cheese with a sharp flavor that is cured for several years and used grated to season other foods (as spaghetti and sauces).

Clem sprinkled a mound of parmesan atop his vermicelli.

parolee

n

/ˌpærəˈlē/

Gk > L

one granted a conditional and revocable release from prison.

Vanessa hoped that giving the parolee a job would help to keep him from becoming a repeat offender.

paronomasia

n

/ˌpærənəˈmāzh(ē)ə/

Gk > L

a play upon words in which the same word is used in different senses or words similar in sound are set in opposition : pun.

Harold is usually quite clever with his puns, but this time his paronomasia was purely silly.

parricide

n
/ 'parəsɪd /
L

[has near homonym: parasite] one that murders his or her father, mother, or a close relative.
The judge ordered a psychiatric evaluation of the accused parricide.

parried

v
/ 'parɛd /
L > Prov > F

warded off a weapon or blow by means of a defensive action.
Neither fencer scored as they parried for several minutes.

particular

adj
/ pə(r)'tɪkjələr /
L

distinctive among others of the same kind : out of the ordinary : worthy of notice.
Was there a particular reason that you overslept today?

paseo

n
/ pə'səʊ /
Sp

a leisurely stroll : promenade.
Florrie and Georgia took an afternoon paseo down the boulevard.

paskha

n
/ 'pəskə /
Gk > Russ

a molded Russian dessert made of cheese, cream, raisins, candied fruit, and nuts and traditionally served at Easter.
Basking in the admiration of her family, Tatiana proudly brought the paskha to the table.

passionately

adv
/ 'pəʃ(ə)nətl̩ /
L + Ecf

with great feeling : enthusiastically.
"Now let me see," Mrs. Whatsit pondered. "I'm passionately fond of Russian caviar."

pastel

adj
/ pa'stel /
L > It > F

pale and light in color : lacking in brilliance and intensity.
Mrs. Cooper selected bold rather than pastel colors for her new baby's bedroom decor.

patently

adv
/ 'patəntl̩ /
L

clearly, obviously, plainly.
The marketing company was sued because some parts of its infomercial were patently untrue.

paterfamilias

n
/ ,padə(r)fə'milɪəs /
L

the male head of a household.
Kevin declared himself paterfamilias for the day and took his younger siblings to the baseball game.

pathetic

adj
/ pə'thedɪk /
Gk > L

evoking tenderness, pity, sympathy, or sorrow : affecting, pitiable.
The pathetic man, whose clothes were worn and tattered, had once been a prominent community leader.

pathology

n
/ pə'thɒlədʒi /
Gk

the study of diseases; their essential nature, causes, and development; and the structural and functional changes produced by them.
Carla, a second-year medical student, was considering choosing pathology as her specialty.

pathways

n pl
/ 'pəθ.wāz /
E + E

tracks specially constructed for a particular use (as walking).
Another open green door revealed bushes and pathways between beds containing winter vegetables.

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pedestal

n
/ 'pedəstəl /

It > F

the base of an upright structure (as a statue, vase, or lamp).

Because tourists did so much damage to the statue in the town square, it was moved to a much higher pedestal.

pediculosis

n
/ pə'dikjə'lɒsəs /

L

infestation with lice.

The school nurse explained that about five percent of elementary school children are affected with pediculosis.

pedigerous

adj
/ pə'dijərəs /

L

having feet : footed.

The insect had three pedigerous segments.

peerage

n
/ 'piəri /

L > F > E

the rank or dignity of nobility.

The war hero's name was submitted to the king for a peerage.

peevish

adj
/ 'pi:vɪʃ /

E

marked by ill temper.

The nurse showed great patience and forbearance toward her peevish patient.

pegasus

n
/ 'pegəsəs /

Gk name

a fabulous winged horse; especially : the winged steed thought of as bearing a poet in flights of fancy.

Monique drew a picture of Mother Goose riding on a pegasus instead of a goose.

peignoir

n
/ pān'wä(r) /

L > F

a woman's loose negligee or dressing gown.

Betty's black peignoir fluttered as she walked past the air conditioner.

Pekingology

n
/ ,pɛ(,)kiŋ'äləjē /

Chinese geog name

the study of the policies and practices of Communist China.

Professor Chen was an expert in Pekingology.

pelean

adj
/ pə'lēən /

Martinique geog name

of, relating to, or resembling volcanic eruptions characterized by violent expulsion of clouds or blasts of incandescent volcanic ash.

The pelean eruption of Mount St. Helens filled the Toutle River with many tons of ash.

pellucidity

n
/ ,pɛlyə'sidədē /

L

the quality or state of permitting one to see through to a remarkable degree.

The pellucidity of the water in the bay attracted many scuba divers.

pelmatogram

n
/ pel'madə,gram /

Gk + Gk

an impression of the sole of the foot.

Joan picked up the bronzed pelmatogram and reminisced about the time when her son was a baby.

peloton

n
/ 'pelə'tän /

F

a European ornamental glass.

There was a large display of peloton in the window of the antique shop.

pending

adj
/ 'pendiŋ /

L + Ecf

not yet decided : in continuance.

Most of the cases pending before the honor council deal with cheating.

penitent

n
/ 'penədənt /

L

a person regretful of sin : one sorrowful because of his transgressions.

St. Francis of Assisi spent several years as a penitent at the beginning of his conversion.

penology

n
/ pē'näləjē /
Gk + Gk

a branch of criminology dealing with prison management and the treatment of offenders especially with regard to their rehabilitation.
In his course in penology, Jake studied the procedures for probation and parole.

pentacle

n
/ 'pentəkəl /
L > It

a five-pointed star producible by one continuous line.
The man who came to the door wore a necklace with a bronze pentacle on it.

pentastich

n
/ 'pentəstik /
Gk + Gk

a unit, stanza, or poem consisting of five lines.
Eric recited a limerick as an example of a pentastich.

Pentateuchal

adj
/ 'pentətükəl /
Gk

of or relating to the first five books of the Old Testament.
The synagogue's guest lecturer was a world-famous Pentateuchal scholar.

penthouse

n
/ 'pent.häüs /
L > E

a dwelling built on a roof.
Lyla lives in the penthouse of a chic new apartment building.

penultimate

adj
/ pə'nəltəmät /
L

next to the last.
In the word ammunition, the stress falls on the penultimate syllable.

peppery

adj
/ 'pep(ə)rē /
E

hot, pungent, piquant.
The peppery smell coming from the wok almost made Josh choke when he entered the kitchen.

peradventure

n
/ 'pərəd'venchə(r) /
L > F > E

an opinion based on guesswork : surmise.
Thinking that Phil's favorite color is red just because he purchased a red car is a peradventure.

perceived

v
/ pə(r)'sēvd /
L > F > E

became aware of through the senses.
Through the mist, Steve perceived the shape of a house.

perceptibly

adv
/ pə(r)'septəblē /
L

in a manner so as to be perceived.
When Laura entered the supermarket, the air was perceptibly cooler.

perciatelli

n
/ ,perchə'te(l)lē /
It

long tubular pasta slightly thicker than spaghetti.
The specialty at Antonio's restaurant was perciatelli with meatballs.

perdition

n
/ pə(r)'dɪʃən /
L

the place of eternal punishment in the future state.
Overly remorseful for his minor wrongdoing, Bryce felt sure that a place in perdition was reserved for him.

peregrination

n
/ ,perəgrə'nāʃən /
L

an excursion especially on foot or to a foreign country : journey.
Julie's peregrination to Italy opened her eyes to the splendors of Renaissance art.

perfidiously

adv
/ pə(r)'fɪdēəsli /
L

in a dishonest or disloyal manner.
Paul has a reputation for behaving perfidiously and should not be given confidential information.

perfunctory

adj
/ pə(r)'fʌŋ(k)t(ə)rē /
L

characterized by routine or superficiality : cursory.
The bureaucrat gave the teenager a perfunctory smile and continued to ignore her.

pericardium

n
/ˌpɛrəˈkɑːrdᵻəm/
Gk > L

the conical sac of serous membrane that encloses the heart.

The bullet wound narrowly missed piercing Officer Callahan's pericardium.

perilous

adj
/ˈpɛrələs/
L > F > E

full of, attended with, or involving danger.

Karen covered her eyes frequently during the movie, unable to watch her favorite actor face one perilous pitfall after another.

periodontal

adj
/ˌpɛrᵻdɔ̃ˈdɑ̃ntəl/
Gk

of or affecting the tissues or regions surrounding a tooth.

The closeup photographs of advanced periodontal disease made Kara want to floss her teeth.

periosteal

adj
/ˌpɛrᵻˈɑ̃stᵻəl/
Gk

situated around bone or produced external to existing bone.

The bone scan revealed periosteal inflammations around the tibia in both legs.

periphyton

n
/pəˈrɪfᵻ.tən/
Gk

organisms that live attached to underwater surfaces.

Periphyton, such as certain algae, live on submerged plant stems and leaves.

peripteral

adj
/pəˈrɪpt(ə)rəl/
Gk

having a row of columns on all sides.

The Parthenon in Athens is a peripteral temple, and most of its columns are still standing.

perished

adj
/ˈpɛrɪʃt/
L > F > E + Ecf

deadened or weakened by exposure.

The perished cotton crop was a result of the severe hail storm during the night.

peritonitis

n
/ˌpɛrᵻtəˈnɪdᵻs/
Gk

inflammation of the membrane that lines the cavity of the abdomen of a mammal.

The cause of Beth's abdominal pain was bacterial peritonitis.

peritus

n
/pəˈrᵻdᵻs/
L

an expert who acts as an adviser at a Vatican council.

When the council reached an impasse, the peritus was called upon for advice.

periwig

n
/ˈpɛrᵻ.wɪɡ/
F

one of several wigs popularly worn from the 17th century to the early 19th century.

The museum exhibited an imposing portrait of King Louis XIV wearing an elaborate periwig.

permeability

n
/ˌpɛr.mᵻˈbɪlədᵻ/
L + Ecff

the quality or state of being passable, penetrable, or pervious—used especially of a substance that allows the passage of fluids.

The permeability of Larry's tent to the rain resulted in a wet evening for the campers.

permit

n
/ˈpɛr.mɪt/
Sp > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a large up to three feet long blue and silver pompano found especially off the West Indies and Florida.

The game warden wouldn't allow Vince to catch a permit without a fishing license.

perpend

v
/pə(r)ˈpɛnd/
L

weigh carefully in the mind.

He retired to the inn to write notes and perpend his situation.

perpendicularly

adv

/ ˌpɜːpənˈdɪkʲələrl̩ /

L

exactly vertical or upright.

Because he was so frightened, Paul could not sit perpendicularly upon the horse.

perpetrator

n

/ ˈpɜːpəˌtrædə(r) /

L

one that commits an offense or crime.

The perpetrator was apprehended after a high-speed car chase by police.

personage

n

/ ˈpɜːs(ə)nɪj /

L > F > E

an eminent man or woman; especially : one distinguished for presence and personal power.

Winston Churchill, a personage most widely known for his leadership during and after World War II, was also an accomplished artist.

personify

v

/ pə(r)ˈsænəfɪ /

Etruscan > L > F

be the embodiment of.

Zoltan strove to personify the perfect Boy Scout.

perspective

n

/ pə(r)ˈspektɪv /

L

the appearance to the eye of objects in respect to their relative distance and positions.

Perspective made the long rows of machines seem almost to meet.

perspiry

adj

/ pə(r)ˈspɪr̩ /

L > F + Ecff

sweaty.

In the muggy weather Kendall wears lightweight clothing so as not to become perspiry.

perstringe

v

/ pə(r)ˈstrɪnj /

L

find fault with : censure, criticize.

“Why must you perstringe everything I do?” cried Emma.

persuasively

adv

/ pə(r)ˈswāsəv̩l̩ /

L + Ecff

in a manner influencing the mind by arguments or reasons.

The puppy looked longingly at the boy's cookie and wagged its tail persuasively.

perturb

v

/ pɜːˈtɜːb /

L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] cause (a planet or other celestial body) to deviate from a theoretically regular orbital motion usually as a result of extraordinary gravitational pull.

The black hole's great density caused it to perturb a nearby star.

pertussis

n

/ pə(r)ˈtʌsəs /

L

whooping cough.

In the United States, babies are routinely immunized against pertussis.

pesade

n

/ pəˈsɑːd /

L > It > F

a dressage maneuver in which a horse is made to raise his forequarters while keeping his hind feet on the ground without advancing.

The pesade is the first lesson taught a horse in order to bring him to curvets.

pessimistic

adj

/ ˌpɜːsəˈmɪstɪk /

L > F

marked by disbelief, distrust, or a lack of confidence, hope, or joy.

The senator was pessimistic about the passage of any tax-cutting bills this year.

petechial

adj

/ pəˈtɛkēəl /

L > It

marked by minute reddish or purplish spots containing blood that appear in skin or mucous membranes especially in some infectious diseases.

Dr. Owens told Boris to let him know if the petechial rash on his hand did not disappear in a couple of days.

petite

adj

/ pəˈtɛt /

F

small and trim of figure : little.

For such a petite woman, Alana has a surprisingly resonant voice.

petition

n
/ pə'tiʃən /
L

the act or action of formally asking or humbly requesting.

The students, through their right of petition, have helped bring about changes in the school cafeteria's menu.

petronella

n
/ ,petrə'nelə /
name?

a Scottish country dance of the 19th century.

Fiona and Brian learned the petronella on the Isle of Skye.

pettifog

v
/ 'ped.ē.fäg /
G name

quibble over insignificant details.

You can expect Aunt Dana and Aunt Elizabeth to pettifog over every family story they can remember.

pfeffernuss

n
/ 'fefə(r).nüis /
G

a small hard highly spiced cookie made traditionally for the Christmas holidays.

The aroma of pfeffernuss in the oven brought back memories of Christmas to the old man.

phaeochrous

adj
/ fē'äkrəs /

Gk
dusky.

A phaeochrous cloud hovered over the city for several hours following the earthquake.

phalangeal

adj
/ fə'lanjēəl /
Gk > L

of or relating to the digital bones of the hand or foot of a vertebrate.

Gert's phalangeal joints were swollen with rheumatism.

pharmaceuticals

n pl
/ färmə'süd.äkəlz /
Gk > L

medicinal drugs.

Congress reviewed the laws governing the importation of experimental pharmaceuticals.

pharmaceutics

n pl
/ ,färmə'süd.iks /
Gk

the science of preparing, using, or dispensing medicines.

A degree in pharmaceutics is one of the requirements for a job in the drug research laboratory.

pharmacology

n
/ ,färmə'käləjē /
Gk > L

the study of drugs, their composition, effects, and use in medicine.

Having done well in both biology and chemistry courses, Phyllis decided to pursue a degree in pharmacology.

philamot

adj
/ 'filə.mät /
F

of the color of a dead leaf or brownish orange.

When Ken called Vicky's coat a lovely shade of philamot, she had no idea his remark was an insult.

philanthropy

n
/ fə'lan(t)thrəpē /
Gk

goodwill expressed through active efforts to promote human welfare : humanitarianism.

A few individuals with a well-developed sense of philanthropy can do wonders for society.

Philomel

n
/ 'filə.mel /

Gk name
nightingale.

The Philomel usually sings at night.

philosophize

v
/ fə'läsə.fiz /
Gk + Ecf

seek a rational basis for fact and experience : reflect, theorize.

Jermain's chemistry teacher encouraged him to philosophize about the nature of the elements.

phobic

adj
/ 'föbik /
Gk

of, relating to, characterized by, or arising from an exaggerated and often disabling fear usually inexplicable to the subject.

A phobic person's fear serves to protect the ego from anxiety arising from unexpressed aggressive impulses.

phonetic

adj

/ fō'nedik /

Gk > L

of or relating to spoken language or speech sounds.

Carmen asked me to write the phonetic spellings next to the difficult words.

phosphorescent

adj

/ ˌfäs'fə'res'nt /

Gk + Lcf

exhibiting or characterized by luminescence.

The phosphorescent glow of decaying wood lit up the forest.

phosphorus

n

/ ˌfäsfərəs /

Gk > L

a nonmetallic element of the nitrogen family that occurs widely in combined form especially as inorganic phosphates in minerals, soils, natural waters, bones, and teeth and as organic phosphates in all living cells.

Photographers used to burn powdered phosphorus to create a flash.

photic

adj

/ ˈfōdɪk /

Gk + Ecf

of, pertaining to, or caused by light.

When a clam is placed on its side, it will tightly close its valve in response to both tactile and photic receptors.

photobiology

n

/ ˌfōdō.bī'äləjē /

Gk > ISV

a branch of biology that deals with the effects on living beings of light and other forms of radiant energy.

Part of Prof. Sanford's grant was to study the photobiology of aquatic plants.

photochromic

adj

/ ˌfōdō'krōmɪk /

Gk

capable of changing color on exposure to radiant energy (as light).

Gail doesn't need sunglasses anymore because her new prescription lenses are photochromic.

photoelectric

adj

/ ˌfōdō.ə'lektrɪk /

Gk > ISV

relating to or utilizing any of various electrical effects due to the interaction of light and other radiation with matter.

Prof. Minchin showed by experiment the photoelectric current set up by a beam of light falling on a sheet immersed in a solution of acid carbonate of calcium.

photoflood

n

/ ˈfōdō.fləd /

Gk + E

an electric lamp using excess voltage to give intense sustained illumination for taking photographs.

The photoflood blew the fuse in the old house.

photoing

v

/ ˈfōdōɪŋ /

Gk + Ecf

obtaining an image with a camera.

While she was photoing, Darcy bound her hair back with a barrette.

photometer

n

/ ˈfōd(,)ō.mēdēə(r) /

Gk > ISV

a temporary luminous phenomenon in the sky.

Many UFO sightings can be explained as some sort of naturally occurring photometer.

photometer

n

/ ˈfō'tämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk

an instrument for measuring luminous intensity by comparison of two unequal lights from different sources.

Astronomer Edward Charles Pickering invented a photometer to measure the brightness of stars.

photomicroscope

n

/ ˌfōdō'mɪkrō.skōp /

Gk

a combined microscope, camera, and suitable light source.

Florio set up a photomicroscope to take pictures of the protozoa he found in the pond.

photon

n

/ ˈfō.tän /

Gk

a massless elementary particle with one quantum unit of spin that is the carrier of radiant energy (as light or X rays).

The concept of the photon originated in Einstein's explanation of the photoelectric effect.

photovoltaic

adj

/ ˌfɒdʊvəl'taɪk /

(Gk + It name + E) > ISV

of, utilizing, or relating to the generation of an electromotive force when radiant energy falls on the boundary between certain dissimilar substances in close contact.

A photovoltaic effect can be produced with cuprous oxide and copper or with an electrode and an electrolyte.

phreatic

adj

/ frē'adɪk /

Gk

of or relating to a well—used of underground waters reachable by drilling.

Kathryn's data indicate that there is a large phreatic source of water six miles northeast of the city.

phrenic

adj

/ 'frenɪk /

Gk

of or relating to the mind.

Julia was more concerned with her son's phrenic development than with his physical skills.

phrontistery

n

/ 'frɒntə.sterē /

Gk

a place for thinking or study.

On warm spring afternoons the backyard gazebo was Grandfather's favorite phrontistery.

Phrygian

adj

/ 'frɪjɪən /

Gk geog name

of, relating to, or characteristic of the ancient country of Phrygia.

In Rome the Phrygian cap was worn by emancipated slaves as a symbol of their freedom.

phugoid

adj

/ 'fyü.gòid /

Gk

of, relating to, or representing variations in the longitudinal motion or course of the center of mass of an airplane in flight.

Glider designers study phugoid theory to develop stable aircraft.

phylogeny

n

/ fɪ'läjənē /

Gk

the history or course of the development of an immaterial thing.

It would be difficult for phylogeny to explain the emergence of so many different world philosophies.

phylum

n

/ 'fɪləm /

Gk > L

one of the usually primary divisions of the animal kingdom.

Insects belong to the phylum Arthropoda.

phytopathogen

n

/ ˌfɪd(,)θ'pəθəjən /

Gk + Gk + Gk

an organism parasitic on a plant host.

Biochemists have developed antibiotic compounds to eradicate the bacterial phytopathogen.

phytoplankton

n

/ ˌfɪdə'plæŋktən /

Gk

the floating plant life of a body of water consisting largely of minute plants (as diatoms and blue-green algae).

Phytoplankton are at the bottom of the ocean's food chain, which means that they are vital to all marine animals.

Pickwickian

adj

/ pik'wɪkēən /

E name + Ecf

marked by simplicity and generosity of character or by an appearance and manner suggesting these qualities.

Matilda wishes that her principal were more like the Pickwickian headmaster of Tom's school.

picudo

n

/ pə'kü(,)dō /

AmerSp

a boll weevil.

After the picudo ravaged cotton crops in 1916, many cotton farmers diversified and raised peanut crops.

piebald

adj

/ 'pi:bɔld /

L > F > E + E

spotted or blotched with black and white.

*Young blue herons acquiring adult plumage have a piebald appearance.***ped**

adj

/ 'pi:d /

L > F > E

variegated; also : wearing or having a parti-colored coat.

*Jenna's favorite story is about the ped piper who took revenge when the townspeople failed to pay him for ridding their town of rats.***piedmont**

adj

/ 'pi:d.mənt /

It geog name

lying or formed at the base of mountains.

*Alma thinks that North Carolina's piedmont region is heaven on Earth.***Pierian**

adj

/ pi:'i:ri:ən /

Gk geog name

of or relating to learning or poetry.

*Once a month the local Pierian society sponsors a poetry reading.***pierrot**

n

/ 'pi:ərɔ /

F name

a standard comic character of old French pantomime usually with a whitened face and loose white clothes.

*Hanna studied the painting of the pierrot to get an idea for her pantomime costume.***pileum**

n

/ 'pi:lēəm /

L

the top of the head of a bird from the bill to the nape.

*The woodpecker's pileum was a brilliant red crest and looked to be two inches high.***pillage**

v

/ 'pili:dʒ /

L > F > E

strip of valuables : loot.

*After the battle, opportunists came from outside the city to pillage its neighborhoods.***pilosity****pilot**

n

/ 'pi:lət /

Gk > It > F

one who flies or is qualified to fly an airplane.

*Hugh is the pilot of a huge transport plane.***pimpernel**

n

/ 'pimpər.nəl /

L > E name

a common herb having scarlet, white, or purplish flowers that close at the approach of rainy or cloudy weather.

*One variety of pimpernel is also known as "poor man's weatherglass."***pincushions**

n pl

/ 'pin.kʊʃənz /

E + L > F > E

small cushions in which pins may be stuck ready for use.

*Kathryn has several pincushions in her sewing cabinet.***pinnate**

adj

/ 'pi:nāt /

L

resembling a feather especially in having similar parts arranged on opposite sides of an axis like the barbs on the spine of a feather.

*The chick-pea plant bears pinnate leaves.***pinyin**

n

/ 'pin.yin /

Chinese

a system for romanizing Chinese ideograms in which tones are indicated by diacritics and unaspirated consonants are transcribed as voiced.

Our newspapers adopted pinyin for spelling the names of Chinese officials.

Pisces

n
/ 'pɪ(ɪ)sēz /

L
the 12th sign of the zodiac.
Pisces falls between Aquarius and Aries.

pisiform

adj
/ 'pɪsəfɔrm /

L
resembling a pea in size or shape.
Johan purchased three cubic yards of pisiform gravel for his new driveway.

pistil

n
/ 'pɪstl /

L
[has homonym: pistol] the ovule-bearing organ of a seed plant.
The lily has but one pistil; the daffodil has several.

pitch

v
/ 'pɪtʃ /

E
toss so as to cause to fall at or near a particular mark.
On warm summer evenings Dad likes to pitch horseshoes in the backyard.

pitchblende

n
/ 'pɪtʃ.blend /

G
a brown to black mineral that has a distinctive luster, contains radium, and is the chief ore-mineral source of uranium.
A German chemist discovered uranium in pitchblende in 1789.

pithecan

adj
/ pə'thɛkən /

Gk
of, relating to, or resembling apes, especially the anthropoid apes.
The unearthed skull exhibited many pithecan characteristics.

pitiless

adj
/ 'pɪdɪləs /

E
devoid of or unmoved by compassion.
The pitiless tornado bore onward, ripping up everything in its path.

placards

n pl
/ 'plɑ:kɑrdz /

F > E
posters, signs.
The demonstrators carried placards protesting the use of animals for pharmaceutical testing.

placate

v
/ 'plɑ:kæt /

L
soothe or mollify especially by making concessions : appease.
The labor relations team worked hard to placate the factory workers to avoid a strike.

placidly

adv
/ 'plæsɪdlɪ /

L
calmly, serenely.
The once-violent river now flows placidly along.

plague

n
/ 'plæg /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a destructively numerous influx or multiplication of a noxious animal.
Although only a foolish optimist could deny the dark realities of our country in 1941, we were stricken by no plague of locusts.

plainsong

n
/ 'plæn.sɔŋ /

L > F > E + E
the ancient nonmetrical monophonic chant of the church service.
The psalm was chanted in plainsong.

plaintful

adj
/ 'plāntfəl /

L > F > E
mournful.
Plaintful over the loss of her pet rabbit, Jennifer decided not to get another pet.

plaintively

adv
/ 'plāntəvli /

F > E
in a manner expressive of grief or sadness.
Three-year-old Jamie asked plaintively for his lost teddy bear.

plangency

n
/ 'plɒnjənsē /
L

an expressive especially plaintive quality.

Regret and grief were expressed in the plangency of the singer's voice.

plantain

n
/ 'plɑntˈn /
L > F > E

the starchy fruit of the plantain tree that is distinguished from the ordinary banana by its angular shape and green color.

Fried chips of plantain are a common snack in the Caribbean.

plantigrade

adj
/ 'plɑntəgrād /
L

walking on the sole with the heel touching the ground.

Most primates are not plantigrade.

plaquette

n
/ plə'ket /
D > F

a metal stamping die that is cut in relief and used to decorate the sides of leather bookbindings.

Lars was required to make his own plaquette to earn a merit badge for bookbinding.

plasma

n
/ 'plɑzmə /
Gk > L > G

an ionized gas (as in the atmosphere of stars) containing about equal numbers of positive ions and electrons and differing from an ordinary gas in being a good conductor of electricity and in being affected by a magnetic field.

"The thing that looks like a blue donut on your handout is an illustration of how magnetic rings are used in confinement of plasma," said Professor Rooki.

plateau

n
/ plə'tō /
F

land area having a relatively level surface raised sharply above adjacent land on at least one side.

The Columbia lava plateau is located in eastern Washington and Oregon.

platform

n
/ 'plɑt.fɔrm /
F

a shoe having a usually thick layer (as of cork or wood) between the inner sole and outer sole.

In the '70s, the platform was the shoe associated with bell-bottoms and long skirts.

platina

adj
/ plə'tēnə /
Sp

of the color platinum—used especially of pale bluish gray furs.

The platina fur coat was the most expensive garment in the store.

platitudinal

adj
/ ,plɑdə'tüd(ə)nəl /
F

having the characteristics of a thought or remark that is stale, dull, trite, or weak.

The old pastor's homilies were usually portentously platitudinal.

platitudinize

v
/ ,plɑdə'tüd'n.īz /
F + Lcf > Fcf + Ecff

utter remarks that are flat, dull, trite, or weak.

The politician's tendency to platitudinize belies the fact that he has innovative ideas.

Platonic

adj
/ plə'tānik /
Gk name

being in accordance with or in the manner of the Greek philosopher Plato and his works.

Iris Murdoch has written modern Platonic dialogues

platypodia

n
/ ,plɑdē'pɒdēə /
Gk

flat-footedness.

Platypodia no longer disqualifies an applicant from joining the army.

platysma

n
/ plə'tizmə /
Gk > L

a broad thin layer of muscle on each side of the neck.

Cory's training for his massage therapy license included learning the names of the muscles of the neck and back, including the platysma, the trapezius, and the intracostal.

plausibility

n
/ ˌplɔːzəˈbɪlədē /
L

the quality or state of being superficially worthy of belief.
Half-truths, because of their plausibility, are frequently more dangerous than outright lies.

pleiotropic

adj
/ ˌpliəˈtrɒpɪk /
Gk + Gk

producing more than one effect—used of a gene.
The subject of David's research is a pleiotropic gene that induces shortening of the ear and reduces general body size in the mouse.

pleuropneumonia

n
/ ˌplɪrən(y)üˈmɒnyə /
Gk

inflammation of the lungs and their membranous sacs.
Parasitic microorganisms can cause pleuropneumonia in sheep and goats.

plumbery

n
/ ˈplʌməre /
L

the business or work of one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures involved in the distribution and use of water in a building.
While Paul was in vocational school, he demonstrated a strong aptitude for plumbery.

plummeted

v
/ ˈplʌmədəd /
L > F > E

dropped sharply and abruptly.
The San Francisco street plummeted down toward the bay.

plumose

adj
/ ˈplü.mōs /
L

having feathers or plumes : feathered.
Emily's plumose mask was a hit at the Mardi Gras party.

plunderbund

n
/ ˈplʌndə(r).bʌnd /
G + G

a league of commercial, political, or financial interests that exploits the public.
Some people think the Internet has become nothing more than a glorified plunderbund.

plutocratic

adj
/ ˌplütəˈkradɪk /
Gk

of, relating to, or characterized by rule or dominion of wealth or of the rich.
The suburb had clean air, good schools, and a plutocratic city government.

pluviosity

n
/ ˌplüvɪˈæsədə /
L

the quality of being marked by or regularly receiving heavy rainfall.
High pluviosity is a characteristic of most places along the equator.

pneumectomy

n
/ n(y)üˈmektəmē /
Gk

the surgical removal of lung tissue.
The surgeon happily announced that the pneumectomy was completely successful.

pneumococci

n pl
/ n(y)üməkä.kī /
Gk + Gk

bacteria that cause acute pneumonia involving one or more lobes of the lung.
Penicillin-resistant pneumococci are also usually resistant to erythromycin and tetracycline

pneumonic

adj
/ n(y)üˈmänɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the lungs.
Pneumonic diseases like asthma and bronchitis are more prevalent in heavily polluted areas.

pneumothorax

n
/ n(y)ümōˈthɔːr.əks /
Gk

a state in which air or other gas is present in the pleural cavity.
The paramedic acted quickly to prevent a potentially debilitating pneumothorax in the accident victim.

pochette

n
/ pō'shet /
F

kit : handbag.

Tanya carried her money and keys in a small silk pochette that matched her evening dress.

pochismo

n
/ pō'chēz(,)mō /

Sp

a term of U.S. origin borrowed into Mexican Spanish.

Juan believes that not a single pochismo adds to the beauty of the Spanish language.

podagra

n
/ pə'dagrə /

Gk

a painful condition of the big toe caused by gout.

George's podiatrist recommended changes in his diet to relieve his podagra before resorting to medication.

poiménics

n pl
/ pòi'meniks /

Gk

the study or application of pastoral theology.

Rather than compete with traditional theology programs, the university has started a graduate program in poiménics.

pointe

n
/ 'pwä't /

L > F

the extreme tip of the toe.

The teacher told the students to stand on pointe while she evaluated their form.

poises

n pl
/ 'pwäzəz /

F name

centimeter-gram-second absolute units of viscosity, each equal to 1 dyne-second per square centimeter.

After melting and conditioning, glass is delivered to a forming machine in a manageable shape at a viscosity of approximately 10,000 poises.

polarimeter

n
/ ,pōlə'rīmədə(r) /

L + Gk

an instrument for determining the amount of polarization of light.

Cagney required a very accurate polarimeter for his experiments.

polished

v
/ 'pälisht /

L > F > E

made smooth and glossy by a mechanical process usually by friction.

The wizard polished a small object vigorously on his robe.

pollards

n pl
/ 'pälə(r)dz /

G > E

trees that have been cut back to the trunk to promote the growth of a dense head of foliage.

Emma's frequent walks along Vicarage Lane soon acquainted her with the hedges, gates, pools, and pollards of that part of Highbury.

polling

adj
/ 'pōliŋ /

E

of or relating to the registering or casting of votes.

Harry got off work early to vote on polling day.

polygrapher

n
/ pə'ligrəfər /

Gk

one skilled in the use of an instrument for making a graphic record of the changes in blood pressure and pulse and respiration rate of someone being questioned under or as if under suspicion of guilt.

The law holds that the opinions of a polygrapher regarding the veracity of a person are not admissible evidence.

polymer

n
/ 'päləmə(r) /
Gk

a natural or synthetic chemical compound or mixture of compounds consisting essentially of repeating structural units.
Fascinated by the polymer they had created, the students tossed it from one side of the lab to the other.

polypropylene

n
/ ,pälē'prōpələn /
Gk + ISV

a polymer of propylene; especially : such a polymer used chiefly in making fibers, films, and molded and extruded products.
Much of today's indoor-outdoor carpeting is made of woven polypropylene.

polyptych

n
/ 'päləptik /
Gk

an arrangement of four or more panels (as of a painting) usually hinged and folding together.
Pauline used an antique polyptych as a room divider.

polystyrene

n
/ ,pälē'stī.rēn /
Gk

a rigid transparent thermoplastic that has good physical and electrical insulating properties and is used chiefly in making containers and other molded products and sheet materials.
Some restaurants have stopped using polystyrene cups because they are not biodegradable.

polysyndeton

n
/ ,pälē'sindətən /
Gk

repetition of conjunctions in close succession.
"We have our passports and our money and our tickets and our luggage, and the tank is full of gas," said Mother Gazda in unconscious polysyndeton.

pomeridian

adj
/ ,pōmə'ridēən /
L

blossoming after noon.
A common pomeridian garden plant is the four-o'clock that blossoms late in the afternoon.

pompeii

n
/ pām'pā /
It geog name

a moderate to deep reddish brown.
Nancy's favorite earth tone is pompeii.

pomposity

n
/ pām'päsədə /
L

a self-important demeanor, speech, or action.
Though he had much power, the leader exhibited no trace of pomposity.

ponceau

n
/ pän'sō /
L > F

a strong red to reddish orange.
The artificial poppies worn on Veterans' Day are of the distinct color ponceau.

poncelet

n
/ 'pän(t)slət /
F name

a unit of power in physics equal to the amount of power obtained from an output of 100 kilogram-meters per second.
Kristin's advanced physics class spent an entire week learning about units of measurement such as the poncelet, the rankine, and the barn.

ponderously

adv
/ 'pänd(ə)rəslē /
L > F > E + Ecf
in an oppressively heavy manner.
A statue of Zeus sits ponderously atop the small pavilion.

ponerology

n
/ ,pänə'räləjē /
Gk

a branch of theology dealing with the doctrine of evil.
Ponerology still made a lot of sense to Damian despite everything he had been taught about genetics and the influence of environment.

ponor

n
/ 'pō.nò(ə)r /
Serbo-Croatian

a steep-sided sinkhole.
Ms. Ventura cautioned the Scouts to avoid the ponor at the edge of the old quarry.

portent

n
/ 'pɔː.tənt /
L

something that foreshadows a coming event : omen.
The seer viewed the blood-red moon as a portent of evil.

portfolio

n
/ pɔːt'fɒli.ə /
L > It

a flat portable case for carrying papers or drawings.
Mr. Barnstone set his portfolio behind the door as he entered the house.

portico

n
/ 'pɔːr.dɪ.kə /
L > It

a colonnade or covered walkway.
The pair entered the shaded portico for a private conversation.

portulaca

n
/ .pɔːr.tʃə'lakə /
L

any plant of a genus of mainly tropical succulent herbs having usually yellow, pink, red, white, or purple ephemeral flowers with four to six petals.
A hanging pot by Linda's front door contained a portulaca with yellow flowers.

post

n
/ 'pɔːst /
E

[has near homonym: posed] a piece of timber or other solid substance (as metal) fixed or intended to be fixed firmly in an upright position especially as a stay or support.
The first step in constructing a fence is to dig a hole for each post.

postmortem

n
/ pɔːs(t)'mɔːrtəm /
L + L

an examination of a body after death to determine the cause of death or the character and extent of changes produced by disease.
The postmortem revealed that the cause of death was asphyxiation.

postnuptial

adj
/ pɔːst'nʌpʃəl /
L

made or happening after marriage.
The bride and groom posed for postnuptial photographs.

potamologist

n
/ .pɔːd-ə'mæləjɪst /
Gk

a specialist in the study of rivers.
Fran, who knew many rivers like the back of her hand, was a potamologist.

potash

n
/ 'pɔːd.əʃ /
D

potassium carbonate.
In colonial days potash was used to make soap.

potency

adj
/ 'pɔːt.nns̩ /
L

force, power, authority.
Massed action and individual effort each has its own potency.

potentially

adv
/ pə'tenʃəleɪ /
L + Ecf

in a possible state or condition : with a possibility or capacity of becoming actual.
The rash on Henrietta's arm could potentially spread if not treated.

potoroo

n
/ .pɔːd-ə'rɪ /

Australian name
any of various small Australian and Tasmanian kangaroos that are no larger than a rabbit.
The rabbit-sized potoroo forages at night for grass, tubers, and underground fungi, which it digs up with its forepaws.

pounce

v
/ 'paʊn(t)s /
E

suddenly seize, grab, attack.
Stanley watched the owl pounce on the rat.

powwows

n pl

/ 'paʊ.waʊz /

Algonquian

meetings or conferences for discussion : sessions.

*The team holds daily powwows before practice.***pragmatic**

adj

/ prag'madik /

Gk > L

practical, matter-of-fact.

*Edmund took a pragmatic stance on most things in his life, especially his finances.***prairie**

n

/ 'prerē /

L > F

a meadow or tract of grassland.

*The prairie stretched out broad and flat to the horizon in every direction.***prairillon**

n

/ prā'rilyən /

F

a small meadow or tract of grassland.

*Baron Munchausen's ranch turned out to be a two-room shack and a weed-covered prairillon.***prattle**

n

/ ,pradʒl /

G

trifling or empty talk or chatter.

*The endless prattle on the bus ride annoyed Mr. Danton.***precariously**

adv

/ prē'ka(a)rēəslē /

L

in a manner characterized by a lack of security or stability.

*Teddy balanced precariously on the chair as he attempted to extract the last Oreo from the cookie jar.***precedes**

v

/ prē'sēdz /

L

[has near homonym: proceeds]

goes before in order of time :

occurs before with relation to something.

*A certain stillness precedes a tempest.***precession**

n

/ prē'seshən /

L

[has near homonym: procession] a comparatively slow gyration of the rotation axis of a spinning body.

*Precession of Earth's axis will make Vega our North Star in about 13,000 years.***precipitate**

v

/ prē'sipətāt /

L

cause a substance to separate from a solution in a concrete state as a result of a chemical or physical change.

*Calcium and magnesium ions in hard water can precipitate calcium and magnesium carbonate, often a problem in domestic water pipes.***precipitated**

v

/ prē'sipətādəd /

L

caused to move or act very rapidly.

*The completion of the railroad precipitated the demise of waterborne transport.***precipitation**

n

/ (,)prē'sipətāshən /

L

a deposit on Earth of hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow; also : the quantity of water deposited.

*Low-pressure areas normally bring clouds and precipitation.***precise**

adj

/ prē'sīs /

L > F

devoid of anything vague, equivocal, or uncertain.

*Mr. Rouse is quite precise about everything, and he has never been known to joke with a student.***preclude**

v

/ ,prē'klüd /

L

prevent or hinder by necessary consequence or implication.

Being a movie star did not preclude Ronald Reagan from having a successful political career.

preconditioned

v

/ ,prēkən'dishənd /

L + L + Ecf

put in proper or desired condition in advance of some intended treatment.

Before new wood is painted it should be preconditioned with a primer.

predicament

n

/ prē'dikəmənt /

L

a difficult, perplexing, or trying situation.

Miss Bates, though having much public favor, stood in the very worst predicament in the world: She was neither young, handsome, rich, nor married.

preemptive

adj

/ prē'em(p)tiv /

L

being or related to a first military strike made to gain an advantage when a strike by the enemy is believed imminent.

The ability to launch a preemptive strike against a possible aggressor is a major factor in the theory of nuclear deterrence.

prehistory

n

/ prē'hist(ə)rē /

Lcf + Gk

an account comprising a chronological record of the preceding circumstances of an event or situation.

The prehistory of the tension between the boss and his employees includes some family issues.

prelapsarian

adj

/ ,prē.lap'sa(a)rēən /

L + Ecf

characteristic of or belonging to the time before the fall of man.

The painting depicted Adam and Eve in prelapsarian paradise.

prelude

n

/ 'prā.lüd /

L

a musical section or movement introducing the theme or chief subject.

Tycho arrived at the concert after the prelude was over.

prematurely

adv

/ ,prēmə'tu(ə)rlē /

L + Ecf

before the proper time : too soon.

Not wanting to tire prematurely, the rowing crew began the race by pulling easily.

preparations

n pl

/ ,prepə'rāshənz /

L

actions or processes of making something ready for use or service.

Tina's preparations for the party included decorating the room and baking the cookies.

prepossessing

adj

/ ,prēpə'zesiŋ /

L

tending to please or arouse confidence : creating a favorable impression.

With her impeccable carriage and her prematurely white hair, Lydia was a prepossessing figure at the political convention.

preprandial

adj

/ prē'prandēəl /

L

of, relating to, or suitable for the time immediately before dinner.

Before the main course, Benito served a preprandial soup.

prerequisite

n

/ prē'rekwəzət /

L

something that is mandatory beforehand.

A Juris Doctor degree is a prerequisite for the practice of law.

Presbyterian

adj

/ ,prezbə'tirēən /

Gk

of, relating to, or constituting a Protestant church that is governed by a graded system of representative ecclesiastical bodies and is traditionally Calvinistic in doctrine.

While in college, William grew interested in becoming a Presbyterian minister.

preserve

v

/ prē'zərv /

L

can, pickle, or similarly prepare (as fruits or vegetables) for future use.

Beverly hurried to preserve her bumper crop of peaches before they became overripe.

preterlabent

adj

/ ,prēdə(r)'lābənt /

L

flowing beside or by.

Mr. Ross pumped water from a preterlabent stream to irrigate his vegetable garden.

pretzel

n

/ 'pretsəl /

L > G

a glazed usually salted bakery product made of a rope of dough typically twisted into a form resembling the letter B.

Brian munched on a large pretzel as he watched his favorite television program.

prevail

v

/ prē'vāl /

L

be or become effective or effectual
: be successful.

The attorney was confident that justice would prevail in the case.

prey

v

/ 'prā /

L > F > E

make raids for the sake of booty.

Pirates prey on the coastal shipping off Somalia's coast.

primatologist

n

/ ,prīmə'täləjəst /

L + Gk

a specialist in the study of members of the order Primates especially other than recent humans.

Jane Goodall's many years of studying chimpanzees has made her the world's most famous primatologist.

primogeniture

n

/ ,prīmō'jenə.chù(ə)r /

L

the state of being the firstborn of the children of the same parents.

In British law, male primogeniture is used to determine inheritance of real estate and titles.

priscan

adj

/ 'priskən /

L + Ecf

dealing with or existing in ancient times.

Professor McCowan is an expert on druidism and other priscan religions of Britain.

prism

n

/ 'prizəm /

Gk > L

a transparent body that is bounded in part by two nonparallel plane faces and is used to refract or disperse a beam of light.

The prism cast an array of colors on the tablecloth.

prisoner

n

/ 'priz(ə)nə(r) /

L > F > E

a person held under arrest or in prison.

For good behavior at the penitentiary, the prisoner was released after serving one-third of his sentence.

privet

n

/ 'privət /

unknown

an ornamental Eurasian and northern African shrub that is used extensively for hedges and has half-evergreen leaves and small white flowers.

Oliver planted privet along the edge of his front yard.

privileges

n pl
/ 'priv(ə)liʒəz /
L

various fundamental rights considered as peculiarly guaranteed and secured to all persons (as the enjoyment of life and liberty and the right to pursue happiness).
Patrick Henry was convinced that the colonists must fight if they wished to preserve inviolate the privileges for which they had been contending.

privy

adj
/ 'privē /
L > F > E

privately aware as one participating secretly.
Although she was not privy to their secrets, Alice could guess what her sisters were up to.

probation

n
/ prə'bəʃən /
L

the action of suspending the sentence of a convicted offender and giving the offender freedom during good behavior under the supervision of a probation officer.
Because of the extenuating circumstances, the judge decided on probation instead of a prison sentence.

probity

n
/ 'prɒbədē /
L

uprightness, rectitude.
Mr. C. Z. Armand is a man of indisputable probity.

prodromal

adj
/ prə'drɒməl /
Gk

precursory; especially : of, relating to, or marked by warning symptoms of a disease.
Half of the people who have heart attacks have had prodromal symptoms ranging from nausea and dizziness to chest pressure.

professorial

adj
/ ˌprɒfə'sɔːrɪəl /
L

didactic, learned.
The eminently professorial volume on verb tenses in English was impractical for those learning English as a foreign language.

proficient

adj
/ prə'fɪʃənt /
L

[has near homonym: perficient]
well advanced in an art, occupation, skill, or a branch of knowledge.
Many educators feel that it is imperative for grade school children to become proficient in more than one language.

profligate

adj
/ 'prɒflɪɡət /
L

completely given up to wild extravagance or excess.
Lord Kensington's profligate spending was the reason for the meeting with his banker.

progenitors

n pl
/ prə'ʒenədə(r)z /
L

ancestors in the direct line : forefathers.
The land had been in the hands of Mr. Williamson and his progenitors for several generations.

projectile

n
/ prə'ʃektɪl /
L

a self-propelling weapon (as a rocket, torpedo, or guided missile).
The sensing device will detect any projectile larger than a football.

prolepsis

n
/ prə'lepsɪs /
Gk

a figure in which a matter is set forth in summary before being stated in detail.
Putnam begins with a prolepsis, but that does nothing to ruin the suspense as the plot unfolds.

proliferate

v
/ prə'lɪfə'reɪt /
L > F

grow by rapid or repeated production of new parts or of buds or offspring.
Blackberry vines will proliferate very quickly if they are not cut back.

prolocutor

n
/ prŏ'läkyədə(r) /
L

one who speaks, pleads, or interprets for another.

The prolocutor for the department of public works explained that the bridge would be under repair for the next several weeks.

Promethean

adj
/ prə'mēthēən /
Gk > L

daringly original.

Daryl's success as an inventor is largely the result of his Promethean approach to problem solving.

prompter

n
/ 'präm.(p)tə(r) /
L > E

one who reminds another of the words to be spoken next; specifically : one responsible for reminding actors during performance.

The prompter was surprised that none of the actors required a cue during the performance.

prone

adj
/ 'prŏn /
L > E

having the face, chest, or abdomen turned toward the ground, floor, or other supporting surface.

The paramedics turned the prone victim over so that they could administer CPR.

pronouncement

n
/ prə'naɪn(t)smənt /
L > F > E

a usually formal declaration of opinion or judgment.

The whole town anxiously awaited Judge Milburn's pronouncement.

prophet

n
/ 'präfət /
Gk

[has homonym: profit] one who speaks for God or a deity : a divinely inspired revealer, interpreter, or spokesperson.

Abraham is considered a great prophet by several different religions.

proprieties

n pl
/ prə'prɪədēz /
L > F > E

the customs and manners of polite society : conventionally correct behavior.

Not one to bother with proprieties, Luke is considered by most people to be downright rude.

proprioceptive

adj
/ .prŏprēə'septiv /
L + L

activated by, relating to, or being stimuli produced within the organism.

Daniel's study tested whether blindfolded subjects could use proprioceptive feedback to move one arm a prescribed distance.

propylene

n
/ 'prŏpələn /
Gk > ISV

a flammable gaseous hydrocarbon obtained by cracking petroleum hydrocarbons and used chiefly in organic synthesis.

Propylene is an important constituent of automobile antifreeze.

proscription

n
/ prŏ'skripshən /
L

an imposed restraint or restriction : prohibition.

Judith's consulting contract includes a six-month proscription against working for a competing firm.

prosecutor

n
/ 'präsə.küdə(r) /
L

an attorney who conducts proceedings especially of a criminal nature in a court on behalf of the government.

The prosecutor asked the judge for permission to approach the bench.

prostaglandin

n
/ .prästə'glandən /
L > E + L > E + Ecf

any of various oxygenated unsaturated cyclic fatty acids of animals that perform a variety of hormonelike actions (as in controlling blood pressure or smooth muscle contraction).

All aspirinlike analgesics inhibit synthesis and release of prostaglandin.

prosthesis

n
/ præs'thēəsəs /
Gk

an artificial device to replace a missing part of the body.

After losing his right foot in an accident, Stan had to learn to walk again with a prosthesis.

prostrate

adj
/ 'prä:stɾät /
L

extended in a horizontal position.

Jeremy lay prostrate on the dock and watched the fishes in the water.

prostration

n
/ prä'strāshən /
L

complete physical or mental exhaustion.

When Chris came down with the flu, she suffered from chills, fever, and prostration.

Proterozoic

adj
/ ,prädərə'zōik /
Gk

of or relating to a division of geological time from the beginning of the Huronian to the close of the Keweenawan.

Annelid worms and blue-green and brown algae lived during the Proterozoic era.

protoplasm

n
/ 'prōdə,plazəm /
(Gk + Gk) > G
organized living matter : the more or less fluid colloidal complex making up each cell.

Under a microscope protoplasm exhibits a variety of appearances.

providential

adj
/ ,prävə'denchəl /
L

of, relating to, or determined by divine guidance.

Arthur's arrival in the nick of time seemed providential.

prowl

v
/ 'praul /
E

move about or wander stealthily in the manner of a wild beast seeking prey.

Captain Andrews and his submariners were ordered to prowl the North Atlantic.

prudently

adv
/ 'prüd'ntlē /
L > F > E

in a wise or judicious manner.

Hakim prudently put suntan lotion on his ears.

pruritus

n
/ prü'rüdəs /
L

localized or generalized itching due to irritation of sensory nerve endings.

Alice applied an ointment on the rash to relieve the pruritus.

pschent

n
/ '(p)skent /
Egypt > Gk

the headdress of the later Egyptian pharaohs formed of the two crowns worn by the respective pharaohs of Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt before the union of the country under one rule.

The pharaoh's statue stood 66 feet high from the feet to the pschent covering his head.

psephology

n
/ sē'fäləjē /
Gk

the scientific study of elections.

The pollster claims that prudent psephology indicates that Liberals may lose a few seats in the next election.

pseudodoxy

n
/ 'südə'däksē /
Gk

an erroneous belief; also : the holding of erroneous beliefs.

The pseudodoxy that walking under a ladder will bring bad luck is still held by many reasonable people.

pseudonymity

n
/ ,süd'n'imədə /
Gk + Ecf

the fact or state of being signed (as a book or other writing) with a fictitious name.

To avoid becoming a celebrity, Professor Stanton hid his science-fiction writings under the cloak of pseudonymity.

pseudoptics

n pl

/ sūd'äptiks /

Gk + Gk

the study of optical illusions.

*The aspiring magician was very much interested in the field of pseudoptics.***psittacism**

n

/ 'sidəsizəm /

Gk > L

automatic speech without thought of the meaning of the words spoken.

*Daniela was alarmed that her pledge of allegiance to the flag had become mere psittacism.***psittacosis**

n

/ .sidə'kōsəs /

Gk > L

an infectious disease of birds that is transmissible to man.

*Vincent's doctor has had him under observation since his macaw was diagnosed with psittacosis.***psyllium**

n

/ 'silēəm /

Gk

[has homonym: cilium] an Old World plantain having seeds that swell and become gelatinous when moist and that are used as a mild laxative.

*When a laxative is needed, health professionals recommend products that contain psyllium, a natural fiber.***pteric**

adj

/ 'terik /

Gk

resembling a wing.

*Hundreds of pteric maple seeds were wafting through the air in George's backyard.***Ptolemaic**

adj

/ .tälə'mäik /

Gk

of or relating to Ptolemy, the geographer and astronomer.

*Galileo got into big trouble by challenging the Ptolemaic view of the universe.***ptyalin**

n

/ 'tälən /

Gk > ISV

an enzyme found in the saliva of many animals including humans but not in that of horses, dogs, or cats.

*Ptyalin helps in the digestion of starches.***publicist**

n

/ 'pəbləsəst /

L > F

an agent employed by an individual, organization, or group to establish and maintain good public relations.

*The author of the tell-all book once worked as a publicist for several rock stars.***pueblo**

n

/ 'pwe(,)blō /

L > Sp

a type of town founded by Mexican Spanish settlers in the southwestern United States.

*Sadly, the ancient pueblo has been abandoned by residents who have chosen to move to larger cities.***pulchritudinous**

adj

/ 'pəlkrätüd'nəs /

L

beautiful.

*The hallway in the Fall Creek Theatre is lined with posters of pulchritudinous movie stars.***pulka**

n

/ 'pəlka /

Finn&Lapp

a one-person Lapp sledge shaped like half a canoe and resting on a broad board or several runners.

*Timmy tried in vain to harness the St. Bernard to the pulka.***pulpitry**

n

/ 'pül.pitrē /

L

preaching.

*Jack is reading a book on the art of pulpitry.***pulverized**

v

/ 'pəlvərizd /

L > F

destroyed by or as if by smashing into fragments : disintegrated, demolished.

*The nightly news began with footage of beach homes pulverized by Hurricane Fran.***pumicite**

n

/ 'pəməsīt /

L

a type of volcanic dust used for abrasive purposes.

The instructions recommended using pumicite to smooth the metal.

puny

adj

/ 'pyünē /

F

slight or inferior in size.

No one would ever guess that the strong and stocky wrestler was puny as a child.

pupa

n

/ 'pyüpə /

L

an insect in an intermediate form that is between the larval and the imaginal stages.

The pupa inside the beautiful jade shell with golden dots will soon transform into a monarch butterfly.

purblind

adj

/ 'pær:blīnd /

L > F > E + E

lacking in vision, insight, or understanding.

Tom was despotic and purblind to the feelings of his wife and children.

Purim

n

/ 'pürəm /

Heb

a Jewish festival celebrated on the 14th of Adar in commemoration of the deliverance of the Jews from the massacre plotted by Haman.

Purim has its roots in the book of Esther.

puritanical

adj

/ ,pyürə'tanəkəl /

L + Ecff

morally rigorous, strict.

Mrs. Langley is a puritanical woman who tolerates no nonsense from her students.

purl

v

/ 'pərl /

unknown

do knitting in a stitch that creates a swirling appearance.

Claire's mom will teach her to purl now that Claire has mastered the basic knitting stitch.

purported

adj

/ pər'pō(ə)rdəd /

L > F > AF

suspected of being : rumored.

The purported spies were held in custody without being provided legal assistance.

purslane

n

/ 'pərslən /

L > F > E

an annual herb widely distributed in both hemispheres whose fleshy succulent leaves are used in cooking and salads.

At the vegetarian café, Roberta ordered a delicious salad of purslane and other greens.

pursuantly

adv

/ pə(r)'süəntlē /

L > F + Ecff

consequently.

Laura put all her effort into her writing classes; pursuantly, she won the Metzger Prize for best student journalist, but nearly failed calculus.

pursuit

n

/ pə(r)'süt /

F > AF > E

a chasing with haste.

One of the others who was nearest the door leaped up and started in pursuit.

pursuivant

n

/ 'pərs(w)əvənt /

F > E

the lowest rank of one learning the profession of heraldry.

After studying for a year, James earned the right to be called a pursuivant.

putative

adj

/ 'pyüdədɪv /

L

commonly accepted or supposed.

The putative owner of the vicious dog claimed to have never seen the animal before.

putrilage

n

/ 'pyütrəlɪj /

L

matter that is rotting.

The pile of putrilage squirmed with maggots and insects.

