

corps

n
/ 'kɔ(ə)r /
L

[has homonyms: cor, core, kor] the ensemble or chorus of a ballet company as distinguished from soloists and principals.

Even the most famous ballerinas have spent some time as members of the corps.

corroboration

n
/ kə'rɒbə'ræʃən /
L

evidence that confirms the truth of something.

Two witnesses provided corroboration of the suspect's alibi.

corrode

v
/ kə'rɒd /
L

undergo a gradual wearing away or alteration by a chemical or electrochemical essentially oxidizing process.

The picture of a harbor in Sandy's book was accompanied by an explanation of how ship hulls corrode.

corrodible

adj
/ kə'rɒdəbəl /
L + Ecf

capable of being worn away or converted into an easily disintegrated substance.

Lemon juice should not be stored in a corrodible container.

cortege

n
/ kɔr'teʒ /
L > It > F

a procession of mourners at a funeral.

Representatives of various charities the princess had supported made up her official cortege.

coruscated

v
/ 'kɔr.ə.skætəd /
L

gleamed with intermittent flashes : glittered, sparkled.

The leaves shimmered and the grass coruscated in the early morning sunlight.

corydora**cosmetic****cosmetologist**

n
/ .kæzmə'tæləjəst /
Gk

one who gives beauty treatments (as to skin and hair).

Mrs. Shelton worked for 22 years as a cosmetologist at Belk's Department Store.

cosmic

adj
/ 'kæzmik /
Gk

of, from, or relating to the extraterrestrial vastness in contrast to Earth alone.

In his spare time Steven likes to read science fiction tales of cosmic exploration.

cossette

n
/ kə'set /
F

[has homonyms: cassette, cosset] a strip or slice (as of sugar beet or potato) : chip.

Each cossette was dropped in very hot fat for browning and then moved to a lower temperature for final cooking.

costume

n
/ 'kæ.st(y)üm /
L > It > F

the distinctive dress of a particular period, locality, or occupation worn in the drama or for festivals.

During the intermission the tenor had to change into another costume.

coulomb

n
/ 'kü.läm /
F name

the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of electric charge equal to the quantity of electricity transferred by a current of 1 ampere in 1 second.

Jenna found that 1 coulomb of electricity changed the potential between two plates of a capacitor by 1 volt.

coulombs

n pl
/ 'kü.lämz /

F name

units of electric charge equal to the quantity of electricity transferred by a current of one ampere in one second.

An ordinary flashlight battery delivers a current that provides a total charge flow of approximately 5,000 coulombs.

counterfeiter

n
/ 'kaüntə(r).fidə(r) /
L > F > E

one that forges or makes fraudulent imitations of current money.

Special paper, ink, and watermarks are used for making currency to foil the counterfeiter.

courage

n
/ 'kəriʃ /
L > F > E

mental or moral strength enabling one to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty firmly and resolutely.

The boys argued about whether the crocodile hunter showed true courage or just foolhardiness.

courser

n
/ 'kōrsər /
F > E

[has homonym: coarser] a swift or spirited horse : war-horse.

The foaming courser threw his rider headlong to the ground.

courtier

n
/ 'kōrdēər /
F > E

a gentleman attendant of a sovereign's residence or establishment.

Travis will perform the part of the king's courtier in the play.

courtly

adj
/ 'kōrtlē /
L > F > E

marked by highbred polish, stateliness, and ceremony.

Lord Darnley removed his feathered hat and addressed the queen with a courtly bow.

couturiere

n
/ kü'türē.e(ə)r /
F

[Note: Could be confused with unisex couturier.] a female proprietor of or designer for an establishment engaged in designing, making, and selling fashionable expensive custom-made women's clothing.

The couturiere Coco Chanel is considered by many to be the 20th century's single most important arbiter of fashion.

coverlet

n
/ 'kəvə(r)læt /
L > F > E

a bedspread sometimes quilted or of heavy material.

Kasey drew the coverlet up to her neck to seek relief in the drafty room.

cowed

v
/ 'kaüd /
E

intimidated with threats, show of strength, or impressiveness : dispirited into inactivity or submission.

The cowed convicts did not dare to antagonize the vengeful guards.

cowl

n
/ 'kaül /
Celt? > L > E

a hood especially of a monk.

At the monastery Sheila was greeted by a man wearing the long brown robe and cowl of a friar.

crabby

adj
/ 'krabē /
E

cross, churlish, ill-natured.

The crabby driver did not allow any talking on the school bus.

crag

n
/ 'krag /
Celt > E

a rough broken cliff or projecting point of rock.

A favorite children's movie begins and ends with the king of beasts standing on a crag, overlooking his kingdom.

cranoscopy

n
/ ,krānē'āskəpē /
Gk > L + Gk > L
observations on or examination of the human skull.

The team's physician advised a cranoscopy for the batter who had been beaned by a wild pitch.

cranium

n
/ 'krānēəm /
Gk > L
the part of the skull that encloses the brain.
The carelessly tossed book encountered Zelda's cranium with a thud.

crater

n
/ 'krādə(r) /
Gk
any of thousands of formations on the lunar surface ranging in size from small pocks less than a mile in diameter to walled plains nearly 150 miles across.
Buzz set down the lunar lander just beyond the rim of a huge crater.

cravat

n
/ krə'vat /
G or Serbo-Croatian > F
a band or scarf of fine cloth worn around the neck : necktie.
The flamboyant poet showed up for the interview wearing a cravat over a tie-dyed T-shirt.

credo

n
/ 'krē(,)dō /
L
a confession of faith said or sung in Christian liturgies.
Bach's B Minor Mass contains a famous credo.

creepage

n
/ 'krēpij /
E
the slow spreading or movement of a substance.
The creepage of rust across the bumper betrayed the car's age.

crept

v
/ 'krept /
E
entered stealthily and secretly.
Mary crept softly across the room to look.

crestfallen

adj
/ 'krest.fələn /
L > F > E + E
marked by a sense of personal defeat : dispirited, dejected.
Margaret was crestfallen when she got only a C on her essay.

crevice

n
/ 'krevəs /
L > F > E
a narrow opening of some depth caused especially by a split.
The hiker's compass fell into a crevice in the rock and will probably never be seen again.

cricket

n
/ 'krikət /
F imit
any of certain leaping insects that are also noted for the chirping notes produced by the males.
The male cricket produces sound by rubbing together parts of the fore wings.

criminologist

n
/ ,krimə'näləjəst /
L
one that specializes in the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon, of criminal investigation, of criminals, and of penal treatment.
Nicole asked her guidance counselor if she needed an advanced degree to be a criminologist.

cringing

adj
/ 'krinjɪŋ /
E

that shrinks in fear or servility.
Cringing at the sight of the bear in the distance, the children gathered their courage and backed slowly toward their car.

criollo

n
/ krē'ōl(y)ō /
Sp

[Note: Could be confused with feminine form criolla.] a person of pure Spanish descent born in Spanish America.
The anthropologist noted in her report that only one criollo answered her genealogical survey.

crispation

n
/ kri'spāshən /
L + Ecf

the act or process of curling : the state of being curled.
Al pointed out the crispation of the leaves on the infested plant.

crith

n
/ 'krith /
Gk

the weight of a liter of hydrogen at 0 degrees Celsius and 760 millimeters pressure (0.08987 gram).
As a unit of mass, the crith was a precursor to the mole.

crocodilian

adj
/ .krākə'dilēən /
Gk > L

false, insincere.
Claire's crocodilian grief over the death of her brother's pet snake did not fool anyone.

crocuses

n pl
/ 'krökəsəz /
Semitic > Gk > L
bulbs, plants, or flowers of the genus *Crocus*.

Crocuses were peeking through the snow in the Goulds' yard.

croquebouche

n
/ krökä'büsh /
F

a cone-shaped stack of cream puffs coated with caramelized sugar.
A croquebouche is a traditional type of French wedding cake.

crossbow

n
/ 'kròs.bō /
E

a weapon having a short bow mounted crosswise that fires an arrow lying in a groove in the stock.

The crossbow was a particular favorite of the weaponsmaster.

crosswind

n
/ 'kròs.wind /
ON or Old Ir > E + E
a wind blowing in any direction not parallel to a course.
A strong crosswind made it difficult for Carla to land her Cessna 150.

crotalid

adj
/ 'krōd'ləd /
Gk > L

typical of a pit viper.
Crotalid venom, while not usually fatal, can cause severe discomfort.

crowd

n
/ 'kraüd /
E

a large number of persons especially when collected into a somewhat compact body without order : throng.
The crowd on the football field chanted, "We're number one!"

cruciform

adj
/ 'krüsəfɔrm /
L + Ecf

forming or arranged in a cross.
The cruciform blossom of the dogwood has inspired a well-known legend.

cruciverbalist

n
/ .krüsə'vərbələst /
L

a person skillful in creating or solving crossword puzzles.
Angela was named Cruciverbalist of the Month by her crossword club.

cruel

adj
/ 'krüəl /
L > F > E

[has homonym: crewel] stern, rigorous, and grim.
The cruel reality is that Justin will be expelled for his wrongdoing regardless of how remorseful he is.

crumpet

n
/ 'krämpət /
E?

a small round cake made of rich unsweetened batter cooked on a griddle and usually served split and toasted.
Pierre thinks no English crumpet can hold a candle to a delicious French croissant.

cryonics

n pl
/ krī'äniks /
Gk

the practice of freezing a dead diseased human being in hopes of restoring life at some future time when a cure for the disease has been developed.

The premise of Rudolph's movie script involved an experiment in cryonics gone awry.

cryptanalysis

n
/ ,kriptə'naləsəs /
Gk

the theory of solving writing that is in cipher or code : the art of devising methods for such solving.

Through cryptanalysis the Allies were able to decode the enemy's secret messages.

cub

n
/ 'kəb /
unknown

a young person; especially : an awkward or ill-mannered boy.

Mr. Downes called every student that passed through his classroom a "young cub."

cubit

n
/ 'kyübət /
L

any of various ancient units of length based on the length of the forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger and usually equal to about 18 inches.

Helen couldn't understand why more things weren't measured by the cubit, since it was a readily available measure.

cuerda

n
/ 'kwerdə /
Gk > L > Sp

a Puerto Rican unit of land measure equal to 0.97 acre.

Raul farmed a small patch of land—less than a cuerda—during the off season.

cuisine

n
/ kwə'zēn /
L > F

manner of preparing food : style of cooking.

Jackie traveled to Lyons to take a two-week course in French cuisine.

culicide

n
/ 'kyüləsīd /
L

a substance that destroys mosquitoes.

The town's inhabitants were advised to stay indoors for two hours after the culicide was sprayed.

culottes

n pl
/ 'k(y)ül.äts /
F

a garment having a divided skirt.

When bell-bottom jeans came back into style, Janine was afraid that culottes would, too.

culvert

n
/ 'kəlvə(r)t /
unknown

a transverse waterway (as under a road, railroad, or canal).

Gina's cat ran from the dog and hid in the culvert for several hours.

cumulocirrus

n
/ ,kyümyə(,)lō'sirəs /
L

a small billowy cloud form found at high altitudes and characterized by a white delicacy.

Denny's plane flew through a cumulocirrus that looked just like cotton candy.

cuneate

adj
/ 'kyünē.āt /
L

shaped like a wedge : narrowly triangular with the acute angle toward the base.

The forest floor was a strange mix of pine needles and cuneate leaves.

curie

n
/ 'kyürē /

F name

a unit of radioactivity equal to 37 billion disintegrations per second.

While studying nuclear engineering, Melissa learned to use the curie to quantify radioactive decay.

curiosity

n
/ ,kyürē'äsədē /

L

a desire to know.

The locked box aroused immense curiosity in Maxine.

cursorial

adj
/ ,kər'sörēəl /

L

having limbs adapted to running.

Horses, zebras, and other members of the genus Equus are cursorial mammals.

curtail

v
/ kər'tāl /

L > F > E

shorten in duration or scope :
abridge, reduce.

The students were warned their grades would be affected if they didn't curtail their extracurricular activities.

cushioned

v
/ 'küşhənd /

L > F > E

provided or equipped with a pad or pads.

Gil and Terry cushioned the hard wooden train seats with their coats.

cutigeral

adj
/ kyü'tijərəl /

L + L

bearing skin.

Starbuck was limping because of the infection in the cutigeral cavity of his left front hoof.

cyanide

n
/ 'sīənīd /

Gk + ISVcf

a compound of cyanogen usually with a more electropositive element or radical.

Ions of cyanide are extremely toxic because they bind almost irreversibly with cytochrome oxidase, a key enzyme in metabolic processes.

cyclometer

n
/ sī'klämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk

a contrivance for recording the revolutions of a wheel and often used for registering distance traversed by a wheeled vehicle.

Just for fun, Chris attached a cyclometer to his daughter's tricycle.

cyclorama

n
/ ,sīklə'rämə /

Gk + Gk

a curved curtain or wall used as a background of a stage set to suggest unlimited space.

The cyclorama provided the illusion of being in a huge ballroom.

cymbal

n
/ 'simbəl /

Gk > L > F > E

[has homonym: symbol] a large concave brass plate producing a brilliant clashing tone of indefinite pitch.

The percussionist grimaced after he struck the cymbal at the wrong time.

cymbiform

adj
/ 'simbə.förm /

Gk > L + Lcf

boat-shaped.

While discussing the skeletal system, Mr. Gray called the students' attention to a small cymbiform bone in the wrist.

cynicism

n
/ 'sīnə.sizəm /

Gk

the quality or state of being prone to faultfinding.

Tom's cynicism has become tiresome to all his friends.

cyrillic

adj
/ sə'rīlik /

Slavic name

constituting or written in the alphabet used for Russian and many other Slavic languages.

Sven puzzled over the cyrillic writing on the Moscow subway station sign.

cytolysis

n
/ sī'täləsəs /

Gk

the dissolution or disintegration of cells.

The researchers experimented with various chemicals to bring about the cytolysis of tumor cells.

dactylic

adj
/ dak'tilik /
Gk

of or consisting of a metrical foot of three syllables, the first being stressed and the last two being unstressed.

Homer's two epics are written in dactylic meter.

dactylion

n
/ dak'tilē.än /
Gk

the tip of the middle finger.

As Ruth was restitching a seam, she ran the sewing machine needle through the dactylion of her left hand.

daguerreotypes

n pl
/ də'gerə.tīps /
F name + Gk > F
photographs produced on a silver plate or silver-covered copper plate.

Ike treasured the daguerreotypes of his great grandparents.

Dallas

adj
/ 'daləs /

Am geog name
of or from the city of Dallas, Texas.
Sue could not find a winter parka in any of the Dallas stores.

Daltonism

n
/ 'dɒlt'n.izəm /
E name

red-green color blindness, named after John Dalton, who first detailed a description of color blindness from which he and his brother suffered.

Danny's parents didn't realize that he suffered from Daltonism until he attended pre-school.

damascened

adj
/ 'daməs.ēnd /
Syrian geog name > Gk > L
decorated with inlaid work of precious metals.

Francine admired the delicate scrollwork on the damascened chest in the Museum of Decorative Arts.

danceable

adj
/ 'dan(t)səbəl /
L? > F > E + Ecf
suitable for dancing.

When a danceable song began playing, Lars asked Anita if she knew how to waltz.

dansant

n
/ dän'sän /
L? > F

an informal or small dance.
Sally's friends held a dansant in her honor before her departure for China.

Daphnean

adj
/ 'dɒfnēən /
Gk

shy, bashful.

Sally's Daphnean personality causes her to look away from the camera whenever her picture is being taken.

darcy

n
/ 'därsē /
F name

a unit of porous permeability in physics.

Geologists use the darcy as a measure of how easily water will permeate a given type of rock.

Darjeeling

n
/ dər'jēliŋ /
Beng geog name
high quality tea grown especially in northern India.

Anthony's mother always purchased her Darjeeling from an importer in Chicago.

darkle

v
/ 'därkəl /
E

grow dark : fade into darkness.

Agnes watched the last bright-colored daylight darkle slowly against the hills.

darkness

n
/ 'därknəs /
E

the absence in whole or in part of light.

Mia fumbled in the darkness of the cave to replace the failing flashlight batteries with new ones.

dasyure

n
/ 'dasē.yú(ə)r /
Gk > L

an arboreal carnivorous marsupial of Australia and Tasmania that somewhat resembles a weasel.
The spotted-tailed dasyure is commonly known in Australia as the tiger cat.

dative

adj
/ 'dādiv /
L

of chemical bonds : formed by contribution of a pair of electrons by one atom.
Although the properties of a dative bond do not differ from those of a normal covalent bond, in which each atom contributes an electron, the distinction is useful for keeping track of valence electrons.

daven

v
/ 'dävən /
Yiddish

recite the prescribed prayers in the daily and festival Jewish liturgies.
Shmuel watched his father daven and tried to copy him exactly.

dawn

v
/ 'dɔn /
E

begin to grow light in the morning.
Every night Delia thanked God for her good fortune and prayed that she be able to watch the next day dawn.

dazzlement

n
/ 'dazəlmənt /
ON > E

the action of impressing or exciting admiration by being brilliant and splendid.
The dazzlement of the Paris fashion show left Suzette speechless and wide-eyed.

deaeration

n
/ .dēa(ə)'rāshən /
L + Gk > L

the act or process of removing air or gas (as oxygen) from something.
The packaging company reduces the volume of powders by deaeration before they are put into bags.

debellatio

n
/ .dābə'lādēō /
L

complete subjugation of a belligerent nation usually involving loss of sovereignty.
The Punic Wars ended with the Roman debellatio of Carthage.

debilitated

v
/ də'bilətādəd /
L

impaired the strength of : weakened, enfeebled.
Disease had so debilitated Kate's sister that she required constant care in a nursing home.

decadence

n
/ 'dekədən(t)s /
L

[has homonym: decadents] the quality or state of being marked by decay or decline (as from an earlier condition of excellence or vitality).
The family mansion's decadence is an embarrassment to Clarissa.

decalcomania

n
/ (i)dē.kalkə'mānēə /
L > F + Gk > L > F

the art or process of transferring pictures and designs typically from specially prepared paper to china, glass, or marble and permanently fixing them thereto.
Most tourist centers use decalcomania to turn cheap china and glass into expensive souvenirs.

decamerous

adj
/ də'kamərəs /
Gk + Gk

having ten parts or divisions—usually used of a flower.
Nelson chose only decamerous flowers for his girlfriend's bouquet.

decathlon

n
/ də'kath.län /
Gk

a ten-event athletic contest.
The motivational speaker Bruce Jenner is famous for having won a gold medal in the 1976 Olympic Games decathlon.

decennary

n
/ də'senərē /

L
period of ten years.
Peace was finally restored after a decennary of unrest.

deciliter

n
/ 'desə.lēdət(r) /
L > F + Gk > L > F

a metric unit of capacity equal to 1/10 liter.
At fashionable Paris boutiques, some brands of perfume are sold by the deciliter.

declination

n
/ .deklə'nāshən /

L
angular distance from the celestial equator measured along a great circle passing through the celestial poles.
Declination and right ascension together define the position of an object in the sky.

decrement

n
/ 'dekrəmənt /

L
the act or process of gradually becoming less : decrease.
The game warden explained that a deer herd suffers no decrement if the legal hunting take is not permitted to exceed 20 percent of the total herd.

decrepitude

n
/ də'krepat(y)üd /
L > F

a state of decay, ruin, or dilapidation.
Far from falling into decrepitude, the town was on a spree of building construction.

dedimus

n
/ 'dedēməs /

L
a writ giving a private person permission to act as a judge.
In the course of her legal studies, Anna found only five instances of the issuance of a dedimus.

deduce

v
/ də'd(y)üs /

L
derive by logical process.
From the tracks and the spoor, Tule was able to deduce that the elephants left the watering hole when the lions arrived.

deem

v
/ 'dēm /
E

[has homonym: deme] come to view, judge, or classify after some consideration.
Robert was frustrated that his trainer did not deem him ready for the fight.

deerstalker

n
/ 'di(ə)r.stökə(r) /
E + E

a close-fitting cap with a visor at the front and the back and with earflaps that may be tied up or down.
Sherlock Holmes without his deerstalker and pipe? Seems sacrilegious, doesn't it?

deet**defalcation**

n
/ (i)dē.fal'kāshən /

L
misappropriation of money in one's keeping.
The treasurer was charged with defalcation when it was learned that he was diverting funds for his personal use.

defamation

n
/ .defə'māshən /

L > F
the act of harming another's reputation by any slanderous communication.
The corporation sued the journalist for defamation, claiming lost business as a result of his article.

deference

n
/ 'def(ə)rən(t)s /

L
a yielding of judgment or preference out of respect for the position, wish, or known opinion of another.

Special hunting and fishing rights are given to Alaskan natives in deference to their tribal traditions.

defiantly

adv
/ də'fɪəntli /

L > F
in a bold, insolent, or unafraid manner.

Though she had been grounded, Vera defiantly rode to the bowling alley on her bicycle.

defunct

adj
/ də'fʌŋ(k)t /

L
having finished the course of life or existence : dead, deceased, extinct.
The advent of the pocket calculator made the mechanical adding machine defunct.

deglaciation

n
/ .dē.ɡlās(h)ē'āshən /

L
the process whereby a glacier or ice sheet shrinks to disappearance.
The deglaciation period at the end of the Ice Age lasted for several years.

deixis

n
/ 'dɪksəs /

Gk
the specifying action of some words (as definite articles and demonstrative pronouns).
An example of deixis is the word there in the sentence "I left the car over there."

dejectedly

adv
/ də'jektədl̩ /

L
in a depressed manner : sadly.
"It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time," he remarked one day as he walked dejectedly home from school.

delaine

n
/ də'lān /

L > F
a lightweight dress fabric of wool or wool and cotton.
Sarah chose to make her sundress out of a floral print delaine.

deliberate

v
/ də'libərət /

L
ponder or think about with measured careful consideration.
Speed chess rewards the player who needs little time to deliberate.

delineation

n
/ də'linē'āshən /

L
accurate and precise graphic representation as distinguished from that which is careless or sketchy as to details.
The architect presented Ruth and Bob with a delineation of the house plan.

delved

v
/ 'delvd /

E
dug into : explored by or as if by digging.

As an amateur archaeologist, Vernon delved into many creek beds for artifacts.

demarche

n
/ də'mərʃ /

F
course of action : maneuver.
With his approval ratings plummeting, the leader wondered what demarche would be the most effective.

demiurge

n
/ 'demē.ərj /

Gk > L
something (as an institution, idea, or individual) conceived as an autonomous creative force or decisive power.
It is surprising how many people tend to regard a computer as a demiurge.

demotic

adj

/ də'mɑːdɪk /

Gk

of, belonging to, or connected with the form of Modern Greek that is based on colloquial use.

Everyone in Callista's ancestral village spoke demotic Greek except the priest, who usually spoke a more classical form of the language.

demure

adj

/ də'mjʊ(ə)r /

F? > E

marked by quiet modesty, sedate reserve, restraint, or sobriety : retiring, shy.

Sondra's classmates mistook her demure conduct for standoffishness.

dendrochronology

n

/ den(ɪ)drɒkrə'nɒləʒi /

Gk

the science of dating events, intervals of time, and variations in environment in former periods by study of the sequence of and differences between rings of growth in trees and aged wood.

Jennifer's biology class attempted to use dendrochronology to chart climactic changes.

dendrologist

n

/ den'drɒləjɪst /

Gk

a specialist in the study of trees.

The dendrologist decried the continuing deforestation of the rain forests.

denier

n

/ də'ni(ə)r /

L > F > E

a unit of fineness for silk, rayon, or nylon yarn equal to the fineness of a yarn weighing 0.05 gram for each 450 meters of length.

Silk is usually quite strong, resisting breakage even when subjected to weights of about 4 grams per denier.

denigration

n

/ .denə'grɑːʃən /

L

a sully of reputation or character.

The candidate's denigration of her opponent backfired in the election.

denticulate

adj

/ den'tɪkjələt /

L

having small teeth : covered with small pointed projections.

The archaeologist unearthed a denticulate tool that early humans used for shredding food.

dentist

n

/ 'dentɪst /

L > F

one whose profession it is to treat diseases of the teeth and associated tissues.

Mrs. Caleb asked the dentist to remove her sweet tooth.

deodorant

adj

/ de'ɒdərənt /

L + L + Ecf

destroying or masking offensive smells.

Penny used a deodorant carpet cleaner to get rid of the dog smell in the apartment.

depravity

n

/ də'prævədē /

L > F > E

the quality or state of being marked by debasement, corruption, perversion, or deterioration.

The young man spent his college years making a concentrated study of depravity.

depression

n

/ də'preʃən /

L

a region of low barometric pressure surrounded by higher pressures.

The size of a depression can vary from a few hundred feet in a tornado to several hundred miles in a tropical cyclone.

deprivation

n

/ .deprə'vɑːʃən /

L

the act of taking away.

Earl suffered some brain damage as a result of oxygen deprivation.

derby

n

/ 'dərbē /

E name

a stiff felt hat with a dome-shaped crown and a rather narrow somewhat rolled brim—called also "bowler."

Alfred wore his new suit and high-crowned derby to the horse race.

derisible

adj

/ də'rɪzəbəl /

L

worthy of ridicule, mockery, or scorn.

Fans were appalled at the boxer's derisible behavior in the ring.

dermal

adj
/ 'dɜ:məl /
Gk

of or relating to skin, especially to the dermis : cutaneous.

Various reptiles have small bones or concretions within their skin called "dermal ossicles."

dermatology

n
/ ,dɜ:mə'tɒləjē /
Gk + Gk

a branch of science that is concerned with the skin, its structure, functions, and diseases.
The cosmetics company employed only individuals knowledgeable in dermatology to assist in its laboratory.

dermatophyte

n
/ (ɪ)dɜ:'mɑ:də'fɪt /
Gk + Gk

a fungus parasitic upon the skin or skin derivatives (as hair or nails) of humans or lower animals.
The skin disease ringworm is caused by a dermatophyte.

derogation

n
/ ,dɜ:rə'gɑ:ʃən /
L

disparagement : detriment.
While the word childlike is usually used in a favorable sense, the word childish is usually used in derogation.

dervish

n
/ 'dɜ:vɪʃ /
Per > Turk

a Muslim monk who performs certain devotional exercises such as concerted movements leading to a trance or ecstasy.
The dancing dervish moved from side to side as he chanted his prayers.

desacralize

v
/ dɛ'sɑ:kɹə'lɪz /
L

divest ceremonially of supernatural qualities or a taboo and render nonsacred.
The reformers wanted to desacralize much of the church's traditional liturgy.

descending

adj
/ ,dɛ'sɛndɪŋ /
L + L + Ecf
moving or directed downward.
The principal listed the amounts contributed by the classes in descending order.

desecration

n
/ ,dɛsə'krɑ:ʃən /
L
the act or an instance of violating the sanctity of something by diverting from sacred purpose, by contaminating, or by defiling.
Congress debated a bill to ban the desecration of the American flag.

desertification

n
/ dɛ'zɜ:də'fə'kɑ:ʃən /
L

the process of becoming arid land or desert.
Environmentalists warn that significant portions of the United States could undergo desertification if there is a marked climate change.

desiccant

n
/ 'dɛsə'kɑ:nt /
L

a drying agent (as sulfuric acid, silica gel).
The desiccant packed with Vern's camera lens bears the warning "Do Not Eat."

desideratum

n
/ dɛ'sɪdɪ'rɑ:dəm /
L

something that is sought for or aimed at.
A traditional Roman desideratum was "a sound mind in a sound body."

desperately

adv
/ 'dɛsp(ə)rətli /
L

with an intensified or all-out last-ditch effort in refusing to give up a struggle or purpose.
Firefighters tried desperately to rescue every person in the burning house.

despondent

adj
/ də'spɒndənt /

L
discouraged, dejected, or depressed.

Elizabeth tried earnestly to keep her ailing brother from becoming despondent.

despondently

adv
/ də'spɒndəntli /

L
in an extremely discouraged, dejected, or depressed manner.

After he was laid off, Larry despondently searched the "Help Wanted" section of the classified ads.

dessertspoonful

n
/ də'zɜ:t.spʊnfʊl /

L > F + E
a unit of measure equal to about 2½ fluidrams.

Paige's secret recipe calls for a dessertspoonful of almond extract.

destination

n
/ .destə'nāʃən /

L
a place which is set for the end of a journey or to which something is sent.

The newest game show gives amateur travelers an itinerary every day but no sense of their final destination.

destitute

adj
/ 'destə.ti:t /

L
lacking possessions and resources; especially : lacking the necessities of life.

The tornado left many families absolutely destitute.

determine

v
/ də'tɜ:mən /

L > F > E
come to a decision about by investigation or reasoning.

Ross's attempts to determine who his parents are were stymied by a fire that burned all the records.

deters

v
/ də'tɜ:z /

L
turns aside, discourages, or prevents from acting by fear or consideration of dangerous circumstances.

Nothing deters a good man from doing what is honorable.

detestable

adj
/ də'testəbəl /

L
very odious : deserving abhorrence.
Manners that are passable in youth are detestable in later age.

detrimental

adj
/ .detrə'mentl /

L + Ecf
harmful, damaging.
There is little doubt that smoking is detrimental to one's health.

deuterogamy

n
/ .d(y)üd-ə'rægəmə /

Gk
a legal second marriage after the termination of a first marriage.
After Gordon's wife passed away, he expressed his opinion that a deuterogamy was out of the question.

devise

v
/ də'vɪz /
L > F > E

formulate by thought : contrive, invent.

It is possible to devise motors much smaller than the head of a pin with microtechnology.

devouring

v
/ də'vaʊ(ə)rɪŋ /

L > F > E
eating up with greediness : consuming ravenously.

The squirrels are devouring the seeds meant for the birds.

dewdrop

n
/ 'd(y)ü.drɒp /

E + E
a drop of moisture condensed upon a cool surface, especially at night.
The bird put his tiny head on one side and looked up at him with his soft bright eye which was like a black dewdrop.

dewfall

n
/ 'd(y)ü.fəl /

E + E
the amount of moisture deposited as dew during one period.
The dewfall quickly evaporated as the Sun rose.

dextral

adj
/ 'dekstrəl /

L
right-handed.
Little Lucas kept trying to use dextral scissors with his left hand but was always frustrated.

diagnosis

n
/ .dīəg'nōsəs /
Gk

investigation or analysis of the cause or nature of a condition, situation, or problem.

After the doctor's grim diagnosis, Harvey's family went looking for a second opinion.

diagrammatic

adj
/ .dīəgrə'mad:ik /
Gk

being or relating to a drawing that shows arrangement and relations (as of parts to a whole, origins and development, chronological fluctuations).

A family tree is a diagrammatic representation of the various relationships in a family.

diaphoresis

n
/ .dīəfə'rēsəs /
Gk

perspiration.

Dr. Grady explained that Simon's diaphoresis was one of the symptoms of his high blood pressure.

diastrophe

n
/ dī'astrəfē /
Gk

a deformation of Earth's crust.

Part of Anita's master's thesis in geology deals with the different causes of diastrophe.

diatessaron

n
/ dīə'tesərən /
Gk

the interval of a fourth in ancient Greek music.

While practicing with her high school choir for the Classics Festival, Louise had problems singing the diatessaron in her solo correctly.

diatom

n
/ 'dīə.təm /
Gk

any of the unicellular or colonial algae having a silicified cell wall that persists as a skeleton after death and forming a large part of the plankton of both fresh and salt water.

Griff examined the diatom through the microscope and drew a quick sketch of it in his lab notebook.

diazepam

n
/ dī'azə.pəm /
ISV + unknown

a synthetic tranquilizer used especially to relieve anxiety and tension and as a muscle relaxant.

The patient's seizure subsided after treatment with diazepam.

dichondra

n
/ dī'kändrə /
Gk

a chiefly tropical perennial herb with tiny leaves and flowers that is commonly used as a ground cover in the southern United States.

Mr. Dupree doesn't like to mow, so he planted his yard with dichondra instead of grass.

Dickensian

adj
/ dī'ken(t)sēən /

E name

characteristic of or having the qualities of the writings of Charles Dickens with respect to humor and pathos in the portrayal of character types.

The Dickensian slums of London were perfectly portrayed in the television movie.

differentiate

v
/ .dīfə'renchē.āt /
L

express the specific difference of.

The order of red and yellow stripes helps differentiate deadly coral snakes from benign species.

diffraction

n
/ də'frakʃən /

L
a modification which light undergoes in passing by the edges of opaque bodies or through narrow slits in which the rays appear to be deflected and produce fringes of parallel light and dark or colored bands.

One consequence of diffraction is that sharp shadows are not produced.

diffractometer

n
/ di'frak'tämədə(r) /
L + Ecf + Gk

an instrument for measuring the diameters of small particles in a microscope field by means of the diffraction rings which appear to surround them.

Lance used a diffractometer to measure particles collected in the air filter.

diffuser

n
/ də'fyzə(r) /

L
a device to distribute the light from a concentrated source uniformly.

To replace the burnt-out bulb, Adam had to remove the diffuser from the light.

diffusion

n
/ də'fyzhən /

L
spreading, dispersion.
Dr. Packman is investigating the effect of temperature on the diffusion of light in various crystals.

digest

v
/ di'jest /

L
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]
appropriate or assimilate mentally.
The teacher told James that she found it difficult to digest the main idea of his recent essay.

digression

n
/ di'greshən /

L
the act of turning aside from the main subject of attention in a discourse or literary work.

Lou felt that they were wandering from the point, and that in digression Alexandra might unnerve him.

dihedral

adj
/ di'hēdrəl /

Gk + Gk
having or formed by two plane faces.

The dihedral angles in a cube measure 90 degrees.

dijudicate

v
/ di'jüdəkāt /

L
make a judicial decision.
Judge Flanders will dijudicate in the civil case between Victoria and her insurance company.

dilated

v
/ di'lādəd /

L
expanded or became wide.
Slowly the pupils of Joan's eyes dilated until they were back to normal.

dimmer

n
/ 'dimə(r) /

E
a device for causing an electric light to burn less brightly.
Sara turned the dimmer down and lit the candles in the dining room.

dimorphism

n
/ di'mòr.fizəm /

Gk
difference (as of form, color, size) between two individuals or kinds of individuals that might be expected to be similar or identical.

Screech owls exhibit color dimorphism, being either gray or reddish.

dingo

n
/ 'diŋ(,)gō /

Australian name
a wild dog of Australia.
Many Australian farmers erect high fences to protect their sheep against the dingo.

dingy

adj
/ 'dinjē /
unknown
dirty, soiled, discolored.
The bird flapped its dingy wings and flew off in a cascade of dust and dirt and fuzz.

dioscuric

adj
/ diə'skyurik /

Gk
twin.
The dioscuric children greatly enjoyed switching identities to annoy their teachers.

diphyllous

adj

/ di'filəs /

Gk

having two leaves.

In her description of the flower, the botanist noted that its calyx was diphyllous.

director

n

/ də'rektə(r) /

L

one that supervises the production of a show (as for stage or screen) with responsibility for action, lighting, music, and rehearsals.

While the producer is responsible for the finances and publicity of a show, the director is responsible for the show itself.

disagreeable

adj

/ disə'grēəbəl /

L > E + F > E + Lcf > Ecf

causing discomfort, displeasure, or repugnance.

Mary was so disagreeable that after the first day or two nobody would play with her.

disappearance

n

/ disə'pɪrən(t)s /

L

removal from sight : vanishing.

With the disappearance of the snow, the sleds and skates were replaced with bicycles.

disaster

n

/ də'zastə(r) /

Gk > L

a sudden and unfortunate event that causes much damage : calamity.

The violent hail storm was the disaster that ruined the wheat crop.

disavowed

v

/ disə'vaʊd /

L > F > E

denied responsibility for, approval of, or validity of : disowned.

Although the manager disavowed the illegal actions of his subordinates, he was held responsible and was fired.

disbursement

n

/ dəs'bɜːsmənt /

L > F + Gk > L > F + Ecf

the act of expending, especially from a public fund : paying out.

The officer in charge of disbursement gave the builders the final payment.

discombobulate

v

/ diskəm'bäb(y)ələt /

L + unknown

upset, confuse, or disconcert.

Changing the rules just before the game was bound to discombobulate the team.

disconsolate

adj

/ də'skän(t)s(ə)lət /

L

hopelessly sad : being beyond comfort.

After she received her report card, Gretchen was disconsolate for the rest of the day.

discordancies

n pl

/ də'skɔːrdə'n(t)sēz /

L

disagreements.

Emma insisted to Mr. Knightley that their discordancies always arose from her being in the wrong.

discrete

adj

/ də'skrēt /

L

[has homonym: discreet] possessed of definite identity or individuality : separate.

As a member of a large family, Emily sometimes finds it difficult to establish a discrete identity at school.

discrimination

n

/ də'skrɪmə'nāʃən /

L

the act, practice, or an instance of differentiating categorically rather than individually.

Several women waged lifelong campaigns to end discrimination against females.

discursively

adv

/ dɪ'skʊəriəvli /

L

in a manner passing from one topic to another.

In her book on modern art Rosalind discusses the various movements discursively.

discussion

n

/ dɪ'skʊʃən /

L

a consideration of a question in open usually informal debate.

A lively discussion followed Ms. Poole's speech.

disembark

v

/ dɪsɛm'bɑːk /

F

go ashore out of a ship or boat : leave a ship.

"Please hold the railing as you disembark," Simi cautioned the passengers.

disheartening

adj

/ dɪs'hɑːtənɪŋ /

Lcf > Ecf + E + Ecff

inducing discouragement or dejection.

Wally's attempts to learn ice-skating were disheartening.

disillusion

v

/ dɪsə'liʒən /

L

deprive of hopes previously held : disenchant.

If you believe that you'll win the lottery, why should I disillusion you?

disinterred

v

/ dɪsɪn'tɛ(r)d /

L

dug out of the ground : taken out of a place of burial.

The body of the victim was disinterred after a long legal battle with the next of kin.

dismayed

v

/ dɪ'smād /

(L + Gmc) > F > E

upset, perturbed, alarmed.

Many veteran teachers were dismayed to learn that they had to pass a test in order to continue to teach in public schools.

dispel

v

/ dɪ'spɛl /

L

clear away : cause to disperse or disappear.

Dr. McKellar's explanation of the surgical procedure did not dispel his patient's fear.

dispersed

v

/ dɪ'spɛrst /

L

caused to break up and go in different ways.

The high wind dispersed the seeds in the milkweed pods throughout the neighborhood.

disquietude

n

/ dɪs'kwɪətɪd /

L > Ecf + L + L > Ecf

lack of peace or tranquillity : anxiety.

Groans and disquietude followed Mr. Collins's announcement of a pop quiz.

dissecting

v

/ dɪ'sɛktɪŋ /

L

cutting into parts or sections.

The science kit was equipped with a knife for dissecting.

dissevered

v

/ dɪ'sevə(r)d /

L

disunited.

If the group dissevered, it could not hope to win the campaign.

dissidence

n

/ 'dɪsɪdən(t)s /

L

[has homonym: dissidents]

difference of opinion : disagreement.

The tyrannical dictator did not tolerate any political dissidence.

dissimulate

v

/ dɪ'sɪmɪə.lət /

L

hide under a false appearance with intent to deceive.

In the preface to his autobiography, the author said that he refused to dissimulate the facts of his life.

dissolute

adj
/ 'disəˌlʊt /
L

unrestrained or lawless in conduct.
The board deplored the dissolute behavior of one of its members.

dissolution

n
/ .disəˈlʊʃən /
L

[has near homonym: disillusion]
termination or destruction by breaking down, disrupting, or dispersing.

King Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries in England primarily to obtain their wealth.

dissonantly

adv
/ 'disənəntlē /
L

in a manner marked by a mingling of discordant sounds.
When the table was overturned, the plates and silverware crashed dissonantly to the floor.

distal

adj
/ 'distəl /
L

located away from the center of the body.
The professor asked the students to identify the distal and proximal ends of several bones.

distemper

n
/ dəs'tempə(r) /
L

a highly contagious virus disease of some animals.
The sick animals had distemper and were given medicine by the veterinarian.

distichous

adj
/ 'distəkəs /
Gk

divided into two distinct segments.
The entomology student was puzzled over insects with distichous antennae.

distinct

adj
/ də'stɪŋ(k)t /
L > F > E
capable of being easily perceived.
As the dense fog lifted, the mountains again became distinct.

distinctive

adj
/ də'stɪŋ(k)tɪv /
L
characteristic, peculiar : special.
The distinctive odor of natural gas comes from an additive designed to make leaks easier to detect.

distinguishable

adj
/ də'stɪŋwɪʃəbəl /
L
recognizable as separate : discernible.
King snakes and coral snakes are distinguishable by the order of their red, yellow, and black stripes.

distractible

adj
/ də'straktəbəl /
L
having one's attention readily diverted.
The highly distractible student was diagnosed as having attention deficit disorder.

distraught

adj
/ də'strɔ:t /
L > E
beset with doubt or mental conflict : deeply troubled.
For four days distraught friends and relatives waited for news of the lost skiers.

distressing

v
/ də'stresɪŋ /
L > F > E
subjecting to great strain or difficulties.
Ulrich had a distressing day at the office.

disturbed

adj
/ də'stɜ:bd /
L > F > E
deprived of mental or emotional peace : upset, agitated.
The movie's villain was a brilliant but emotionally disturbed scientist.

diuturnal

adj
/ .diyu'tɜ:nəl /
L
of long continuance : lasting.
In geologic time, the Paleozoic Era was relatively diuturnal.

divers

pron pl
/ 'dɪvə(r)z /

L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has near homonym: diverse.] an indefinite number more than one (as of persons or objects).
Divers of the enemy were captured.

diverticulum

n
/ dɪvə(r)'tɪkyləm /

L

an abnormal pouch or sac opening from a hollow organ (as the intestines or bladder).

The examination began rather casually, but at the first sight of a diverticulum the doctor became much more serious.

divertimento

n
/ dɪvərdə'men(ə)tō /

L > F > It

an instrumental musical composition having from four to ten movements that is written as a chamber work.

The conductor chose a divertimento by Mozart for the evening's performance.

diverting

v
/ dɪvərdɪŋ /

L + Ecf

turning or drawing (as the mind or attention) from one concern to another : distracting.

The program on television was diverting Vera's attention from her homework.

dodecarchy

n
/ 'dɒdəkɑ:kə /

Gk

a ruling body of 12.

The rebels overthrew the dodecarchy and established an independent kingdom.

doffed

v
/ 'dɔft /

E

lifted the hat.

When he reached the car, the figure doffed his cap.

doldrums

n pl
/ 'dɔldrəmz /

E?

a spell of listlessness or despondency : blues.

Siobhan, who lives in Alaska, explained that she often experiences the doldrums in the winter.

dolmen

n
/ 'dɔlmən /

L > Bret > F

[has homonym: dolman] a prehistoric monument consisting of two or more upright stones supporting a horizontal stone slab found especially in Britain and France and thought to be a tomb.
Connor made a model of a dolmen enclosed by a stone circle as part of his English history project.

dolomite

n
/ 'dɔləmɪt /

F name

a limestone or marble rich in magnesium carbonate.

Geologists suspected a deposit of dolomite lay just beneath the next rock layer.

dorsal

adj
/ 'dɔrsəl /
L

belonging to or situated near or on the back of an animal.

From the scar near the salmon's dorsal fin, Ako knew it had been attacked by a lamprey.

doublet

n
/ 'dəublət /
L > F > E

a quilted undergarment reinforced by rings of mail and worn under armor.

The knight's life was saved by the doublet he had reluctantly worn.

dobloons

n pl
/ .də'blʊnz /
L > Sp

old gold coins of Spain and Spanish America worth 16 pieces of eight.

"Hang it, Pew, we've got the doubloons!" grumbled one pirate to the other.

doughtily

adv
/ daʊdɔlə /
E

in a manner marked by fearless resolution and by stoutness in contest or struggle.

The district attorney doughtily persevered in his efforts to bring the crime bosses to justice.

dour

adj
/ 'daʊ(ə)r /
L

[has homonyms: doer, dower] marked by gloomy silence or ill humor : sullen.

The usually dour senator was advised to smile more if he wanted to get reelected.

dovetail

n
/ 'dəv.təl /
E + E

something (as a flaring tenon, tongue, or machine part) felt to resemble a dove's tail in shape; especially : dovetail joint.

The cabinetmaker taught his apprentice to use a dovetail to join the pieces of wood.

dovetailed

adj
/ 'dəv.təld /
E + E

joined with or as if with a flaring tenon or tongue.

Norm Abram showed the TV audience the carefully dovetailed joints on the sideboard.

downcast

adj
/ 'daʊn.kast /
E + ON > E

low in spirit : depressed, dejected.

After striking out, the downcast batter returned to the bench.

downdraft

n
/ 'daʊn.draft /
E + E

a downward current of air.

A strong downdraft sent the airplane into a sudden steep descent.

downpour

n
/ 'daʊn.pəʊ(ə)r /
E + E

a pouring or streaming downward; especially : a heavy rain.

The town's sewage system was unable to handle the tremendous downpour.

dragoon

v
/ drə'gʊn /
F

compel or attempt to compel into submission by violent measures : harass, persecute.

Gerald's so-called friends tried to dragoon him into quitting school, but he would have none of it.

dramatize

v
/ 'dramə.tɪz /
Gk

exhibit graphically in such a manner as to show forth qualities, attributes, or aspects likely to be overlooked.

To dramatize the plight of Third World children, the charity executives decided to film their commercial in a squalid back alley.

drams

n pl

/ 'dramz /

Gk > L&F > E

avoirdupois units, each equal to 27.343 grains.

*The doctor prescribed 2 drams of the medicine to be taken three times a day.***drizzle**

n

/ 'drizəl /

E

a fine misty rain; specifically : a light rain of very small drops.

*The rain increased suddenly, pounding hollowly against the umbrella, then just as suddenly faded back to a drizzle.***drogher****droll**

adj

/ 'drɔl /

D > F

having a whimsical, humorous, or odd character.

*Steve says things so droll his parents can't respond for laughing.***dromic**

adj

/ 'drämik /

Gk

of, relating to, or in the form of a racecourse.

*Many Eastern churches exhibit the dromic form.***Drosophila**

n

/ drɔ'säfələ /

Gk > L

a genus of small two-winged flies that have been used extensively in experiments to study basic mechanisms of inheritance.

*The fruit fly is of the genus Drosophila.***drowsily**

adv

/ 'drauzəle /

E? + Ecf

in a sleepy manner.

*Ali drowsily took the message for his roommate but forgot to give it to him.***druid**

n

/ 'drüəd /

Gaulish > L

a member of a priesthood in ancient Gaul, Britain, and Ireland whose members are said to have studied the natural sciences and later appeared in legends as magicians and wizards.

*The tour guide speculated that Stonehenge had been built by a lone druid seeking immortality.***drumlin**

n

/ 'drämlən /

IrGael + E

an elongate or oval hill of glacial drift.

*Last summer the cousins built a bonfire atop the drumlin on Granddad's farm.***dryad**

n

/ 'drīəd /

Gk > L

one of the minor divinities of nature in Greek and Roman mythology that are represented as beautiful maidens dwelling in the forests.

*Sally likes to sit in her tree house and pretend that she is a dryad.***dual**

adj

/ 'd(y)üəl /

L

[has homonym: duel] consisting of two parts or elements : twofold.

*Mark practiced whistling until he was able to consistently produce a dual tone.***dubiously**

adv

/ 'd(y)übēəslē /

L + Ecf

in a manner expressive of doubt, hesitation, or suspicion.

*"Are you sure the shot won't hurt?" Sarah dubiously asked the doctor.***ducal**

adj

/ 'd(y)ükəl /

L > F

of, belonging to, or befitting a duke or dukedom.

*The ducal palace stood in the middle of a beautiful garden.***ductility**

n

/ .dək'tilədē /

L > F

the quality or state of being capable of being drawn out into wire.

The ductility of platinum is such that it has been drawn into a wire less than two thousandths of an inch in diameter.

duenna

n
/ d(y)ü'ənə /
L > Sp

an elderly woman serving as governess and companion to the younger ladies in a Spanish or a Portuguese family.

The governor's daughter was never allowed to leave the house without her duenna.

dugong

n
/ 'dü.gäŋ /
Malay&Tagalog > L

an aquatic herbivorous mammal that has a two-lobed tail and in the male upper incisors altered into short tusks, is related to the manatee, and inhabits warm coastal regions.

The dugong grazes on green algae and sea grasses and is able to remain submerged for up to 10 minutes.

dulcinea

n
/ .dəlsə'nēə /
L > Sp name

sweetheart.
Wesley called his girlfriend his "dulcinea" because it sounded more romantic.

dulosis

n
/ d(y)ü'lōsəs /
Gk > L

enslavement by an insect that captures and rears the larvae or pupae of another species.
Some ants practice dulosis in order to enlarge their army of workers.

duncical

adj
/ 'dʌn(t)səkəl /
Scottish name + Ecff

stupid.
Warren's patience ran out when he had to walk his neighbor's duncical dog.

dundrearies

n pl
/ .dʌn'drɪrēz /
E name

long flowing side whiskers.
Dundrearies were a popular adornment of men in the latter half of the 19th century.

duodenary

adj
/ .d(y)üə'denərē /
L

containing 12.
The radical new government planned to hold its elections on a duodenary cycle of years.

dupes

n pl
/ 'd(y)üps /
F

puppets or tools especially of a powerful person or idea.
In his "Four Freedoms" speech, Franklin D. Roosevelt warned about the presence of secret agents and their dupes.

duplicate

adj
/ 'd(y)üpləkət /
L

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] of, relating to, or being a card game in which all players play identical hands in order to allow a comparison of scores.
Joe and Lisa spent the weekend at a duplicate bridge tournament.

dusky

adj
/ 'dəskē /
E

somewhat dark in color.
Dustin described the bird's plumage as a dusky brown tinged with yellow.

duumvirate

n
/ d(y)ü'əmvrət /
L

two people associated in high office or position.
The rebellion's leader and the army colonel formed a powerful duumvirate that controlled all traffic to and from the capital.

dwindled

v
/ 'dwindld /
E

became steadily less : diminished in size, amount, or quality.
Above them the trees of the mountain dwindled, and then vegetation ceased entirely.

dynamic

adj
/ dɪ'namɪk /
Gk

forceful, energetic.
The soccer team praised their dynamic coach for his untiring efforts.

dynamo

n
/ 'dɪnə.mō /
Gk

a direct-current generator.
The old car had a dynamo powered by the front tire.

dyne

n
/ 'dɪn /
Gk > F

[has homonym: dine] the unit of force in the centimeter-gram-second system equal to the force that would give a free mass of 1 gram an acceleration of 1 centimeter per second per second.
Mr. Hill tried to give examples illustrating the force of 1 dyne, but the students were still confused.

dysphagia

n
/ də'sfʌj(ə) /
Gk + Gk

difficulty in swallowing.

Doug experienced dry mouth and dysphagia as adverse reactions to the medication he was taking.

dystrophy

n
/ 'dɪstrəfi /
Gk

any of several neuromuscular disorders.

Shayna was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy the summer before she began elementary school.

earnestly

adv
/ 'ɜrnəstli /
E

with intent and serious manner.

Gerald performed his job so earnestly that his co-workers teased him by asking if he thought he was saving the world.

easily

adv
/ 'i:z(ə)li /
E

without difficulty, discomfort, or reluctance : readily.

Thomas easily solved the first set of math problems, but the second set required great effort.

Ebenezer

n
/ 'ebə'nēzə(r) /
Heb

a commemoration of divine assistance.

The city swimming pool is a millionaire's Ebenezer, celebrating his recovery from a childhood bout of polio.

eburnean

adj
/ ə'bɜrnēən /
L

resembling ivory in color.

Charlie pleaded with his dentist to improve the appearance of his eburnean teeth.

ecce

interj
/ 'e(ɪ)chā /
L

interjection used to call attention often to one persecuted unjustly.

At the end of his speech the defense attorney screamed "Ecce" and pointed at his client.

ecdysone

n
/ 'ekdəsən /
Gk

any of several arthropod hormones that in insects trigger molting and metamorphosis.

The insecticide Mary uses in her garden inhibits ecdysone, the hormone that enables some insects to metamorphose.

echard

n
/ 'e:kərd /
Gk

the soil water that is unavailable to plant organisms.

The echard forms a part of the total moisture content of the soil.

echelette

n
/ 'eshə'let /
L > F

a reflection grating made by ruling parallel V-shaped grooves in a polished metal plate so that light is reflected from the corresponding faces of successive grooves.

If cut properly, an echelette can reflect almost as much light as a mirror.

echidna

n
/ ə'kɪdnə /
Gk

a spiny-coated toothless burrowing egg-laying mammal of Australia having a tapering snout and long tongue for eating ants.

To frustrate its enemies, an echidna may roll itself into a ball and dig straight down in loose soil.

echinacea

n
/ 'ekə'nāshēə /
Gk

the dried rhizome, roots, or other parts of any of three composite herbs used in folk medicine and some patent medicines especially for a supposed beneficial effect on the immune system.

Some people take echinacea to prevent colds and flu.

echinate

adj
/ ə'kɪnət /
Gk > L

[Note: Could be confused with noun echinite.] densely covered with stiff bristles or spines : prickly like a hedgehog.

Not many animals interfere with the echinate porcupine.

echinus

n
/ ə'kɪnəs /
Gk

the rounded molding forming the bell of the Greek Doric capital of a column.

The tour guide pointed out the echinus of the capital to Nancy's group.

echolocation

n
/ ˌe(ɪ)kɒlə'kæʃən /
Gk + L

a process of animal orientation and navigation that involves emission of high-frequency sounds that are reflected back from enviroing surfaces and thus indicate the relative distance and direction of such surfaces.

Contrary to popular fiction, Erin learned that bats never get tangled in people's hair because their system of echolocation is so accurate.

echoppe

n
/ ə'shɑp /
L > F

an engraver's needle beveled to an oval facet at the end and used to reopen previously incised lines.

Kermit carefully worked the echoppe through the broad strokes of the engraving.

ectoparasite

n
/ ˌektɒ.pə.rə.sɪt /
Gk

a parasite that lives on the exterior of its host.

The flea is a common ectoparasite on dogs and cats.

edaphic

adj
/ ə'dafɪk /
Gk

of or relating to the soil.

Kate's research project on the effects of local edaphic variations on agriculture won a silver medal in the state science fair.

eddying

v
/ ˈedɪɪŋ /
ON? > E

causing to move contrary to the main current.

Yolanda let her fly drift into the eddying water at the edge of the stream.

eeriness

n
/ ˈɪrənəs /
E

the quality or state of being unusual or unnatural to such a degree as to inspire fear.

The abandoned mansion's eeriness sent a shiver down Joachim's spine.

eglantine

n
/ ˈeɡlən.tɪn /
L > F > E + Ecff

an Old World rose with stout recurved prickles and white to deep rosy pink single flowers.

The eglantine, noted for its fragrant foliage, can grow to a height of six feet.

egotistical

adj
/ ˌegə'tɪstəkəl /
L + Ecff

boastful or arrogant : referring unduly to oneself.

Paul wrote an egotistical letter to the editor of the newspaper.

Egyptian

adj

/ ə'jɪptʃən /

Gk > L

of or relating to Egypt, its inhabitants, or its language.

The pyramids at Giza are huge spectacular monuments of Egyptian Old Kingdom architecture.

eigenvalue

n

/ 'iɡən.vəlɪyü /

G + L > F > E

any of the permissible values of a parameter in the solution of a differential equation satisfying specified conditions.

Nina spent an hour finding the final eigenvalue that satisfied the assigned physics problem.

einkanter

n

/ 'ɪn.käntə(r) /

G

a stone with a single sharp edge worn by wind-driven sand.

Joseph cut his knee on a large einkanter at the beach.

eisegesis

n

/ ɪsə'jɛsəs /

Gk

the interpretation of a text (as of the Bible) by reading into it one's own ideas.

The biblical scholar noted that eisegesis is often unavoidable because our lives have a strong impact on how we learn.

elaborative

adj

/ ə'labərə'dɪv /

L

tending to expand something in detail.

Each topical heading was followed by elaborative paragraphs giving details.

eland

n

/ 'ɛlənd /

Lithuanian > G > D > Afrikaans

either of two large African antelopes of which both male and female have short spirally twisted horns.

In some areas of Africa the eland has been domesticated for use as a draft animal on farms.

elated

adj

/ ə'lædəd /

L

elevated in spirit : excited especially with pride.

The scientist was elated on hearing that he would be awarded the Nobel Prize.

elaterid

n

/ ə'lædərəd /

Gk > L

click beetle.

Sandy was surprised to hear a clicking noise when the elaterid flipped itself to an upright position.

elderly

adj

/ 'eldə(r)li /

E + Ecf

rather advanced in years.

An elderly lady lived in a huge old house on the edge of town and never came out except for food and church.

electorate

n

/ ə'lekt(ə)rət /

L

a body of people entitled to vote.

The electorate favored allowing the independent candidate to participate in the presidential debates.

electroencephalograph

n

/ ə'lektroʊn'sefələgrəf /

Gk > L

an apparatus for detecting and recording brain waves.

The technicians installed the new electroencephalograph at the hospital.

electroluminescence

n

/ ə'lek.trō'liümə'nes'n(t)s /

Gk + L + Lcf

an emission of light resulting from a high-frequency discharge through a gas or from application of an alternating current to a layer of phosphor.

Stan was surprised to find that his friend knew what electroluminescence is.

electrolyte

n

/ ə'lektro.līt /

Gk

a substance (as an acid, base, or salt) that when dissolved in a suitable solvent (as water) or when fused becomes an ionic conductor.

The veterinarian recommended that Mo use the product Pedialyte to get an electrolyte or two into Daisy, his sick chimp.

electroretinograph

n

/ ə'lektro'ret'nəgrəf /

Gk + L + Gk

an instrument for recording electrical activity in the retina.

The security device in the sci-fi film involved an electroretinograph, but the details were vague.

elegiac

adj

/ ˌeləˈdʒiæk /

Gk

consisting of two dactylic hexameter lines the second of which is often felt to be pentameter.

Gonda could not figure out how to scan the elegiac couplet.

elegy

n

/ ˈelədʒi /

Gk > L

a poem expressing sorrow or lamentation.

The English poet Thomas Gray wrote perhaps the most famous elegy.

elevation

n

/ ˌeləˈvāshən /

L

the angular distance of a celestial object above the horizon.

Simon measured the Moon's elevation with a protractor, a straw, a string, and a washer.

elog

n

/ ˈælɒz /

Gk > L > F

a panegyric funeral oration.

Mourners wept at the rabbi's moving eloge.

eloquent

adj

/ ˈeləkwənt /

L

adept at skilled easy pleasing communication of a thought, idea, or feeling.

A gifted toastmaster is not only eloquent but also entertaining.

eluvium

n

/ ˈɛlʊvɪəm /

L

rock debris produced by weathering.

After many years the wind and water made eluvium of the limestone.

elysium

n

/ ˈɛlɪz(h)ɪəm /

Gk > L

the dwelling place of happy souls after death as conceived by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

Greek tales about the afterlife seem to focus more on Hades than on elysium.

elytra

n pl

/ ˈelɪtrə /

Gk > L

the thickened sclerotized anterior wings in beetles and some other insects that protect and cover the posterior wings.

At least 250,000 species of insects have hardened wing covers called "elytra."

emaciation

n

/ ˌɛməʃɪˈeɪʃən /

L

the state of being made lean by impairment (as from hunger).

Disease was the major cause of the emaciation of the children in the African village.

email

n

/ ˈæmī /

F

a moderate bluish green to greenish blue.

Email, also called "bleu Louise," is a common color of enamel used in cloisonné.

embergoose

n

/ ˈembə(r)ɡiːs /

Norw&E + E

common loon.

The embergoose is a large fish-eating aquatic bird that spends most of its time in open water.

embezzled

v

/ ɛmˈbeɪzld /

F > AF > E

appropriated fraudulently to one's own use (as property entrusted to one's care).

The bank employee embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars before the authorities discovered the crime.

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

embosser

n
/ əm'bäsə(r) /

F
a punch used for striking metal on the reverse side to raise the relief.
Mandy used an embosser to form a design on a thin piece of copper sheeting.

embracing

v
/ əm'brāsiŋ /

F
encircling, enclosing, encompassing.
Calvin flung his arms out wide, as though he were embracing Meg and her mother—the whole house.

embroidered

v
/ əm'brɔidə(r)d /

F > E + Ecf
ornamented with needlework.
Grandma embroidered the tablecloth with a floral motif.

embryogenesis

n
/ ɛmbrɛə'jenəsəs /

Gk + Gk
the formation and development of the animal organism in the early stages of growth and differentiation.
During early embryogenesis cells differentiate to form various types of tissue.

emersal

eminence

emit

v
/ ɛ'mit /

L
throw or give off or out (as light, heat, gases, or charged particles).
"Neon" signs are actually made with neon, krypton, and argon, which emit different colors of light.

emmetropia

n
/ ɛmə'trɒpɛə /

Gk > NL
the normal refractive condition of the eye in which with accommodation relaxed parallel rays of light are brought accurately to a focus upon the retina.
There are new kinds of laser surgery that bring the eyes of nearsighted people back to a state of emmetropia.

emotion

emperor

emphasize

empiricism

employed

emptiness

empyreal

emulator

emulsify

v
/ ə'məlsəfi /

L
convert into a mixture of two incompletely miscible liquids.
Monika used a hand mixer to emulsify the eggs and oil for her special salad dressing.

enamelware

enatic

adj
/ ɛ'nadik /

L + Ecf
descended from the same mother : related on the mother's side.
George and Isabel are enatic cousins.

encaustic

n
/ ən'kɒstik /

Gk
a paint mixed with melted beeswax and after application fixed by heat.
Encaustic gave Gerard's painting an appealing texture.

enceinte

n
/ ä'sant /

L > F
a line of fortification enclosing a castle or town.
The attacking army used artillery to breach the town's enceinte.

encephalon

n
/ ən'sefəlän /

Gk
the vertebrate brain.
The encephalon is divided into the hindbrain, the midbrain, and the forebrain.

enchanted

v
/ ən'chantəd /

L > F > E
influenced by or as if by charms and incantation : bewitched.
The dominant spirit that has haunted and enchanted this region is a figure on horseback.

encincture

encipherment

encoignure

encolure

encomiastic

adj
/ ən.kɒmɛ'astik /

Gk
of, belonging to, or bestowing praise.
The opera's composer wrote an encomiastic letter to the conductor commending his performance.

encompass

encourage

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

encouraged

encroaching

v
/ ʔn'krōchiŋ /
Scand > F > E + Ecf
entering by gradual steps or by stealth into the possessions or rights of another.
Mr. Bickett's garden was encroaching on his neighbor's lawn year by year.

enculturate

v
/ ʔn'kəlchərāt /
L
modify or condition by the process by which an individual learns the traditional content of a culture and assimilates its practices and values.
The Romans intended to enculturate the vanquished people as quickly as possible.

endear

endearment

endive

endocardial

adj
/ ˌendō'kɑrdēəl /
Gk + Gk
situated within the heart.
With a stethoscope the physician listened for endocardial murmurs.

endocrinopathy

endogenous

adj
/ en'däjənəs /
Gk + Gk
arising from internal structural or functional causes.
Rhythmic biological behavior governed by an endogenous clock is widespread in the animal kingdom.

endoradiosonde

n
/ ˌen.dō'rādēō.sänd /
Gk + L + F
a microelectronic device introduced into the body to record physiological data.
Dr. Lennon warned Tonya not to use a portable telephone while her endoradiosonde was in place.

endotracheal

adj
/ ˌendō'trākēəl /
Gk
placed within or passed inside of the windpipe.
The physician had to insert an endotracheal tube to help the patient breathe.

endurance

n
/ ʔn'd(y)ürən(t)s /
L > F
an instance of long-suffering (as hardship or tribulation).
On his sad face was an expression of suffering and endurance.

enemy

energumen

enforceable

adj
/ ʔn'fō(ə)rsəbəl /
F > E
capable of being enforced.
A law must be enforceable if it is to have any effect.

enfranchise

engagement

engagingly

engine

engorge

engross

enjoin

enjoyable

enkindle

v
/ ʔn'kindl /
L + ON > E
set on fire.
Light concentrated by a magnifying glass will enkindle dry grass or paper.

enlivened

v
/ ʔn'līvənd /
L > F > E + E
made sprightly, gay, or cheerful.
The dancers were immediately enlivened by the swing music.

ennoble

v
/ ʔ'nōbəl /
L > F > E
elevate in degree or excellence.
That is living proof that spending time with virtuous people can ennoble those of lesser character.

enoptromancy

enormous

adj
/ ʔ'nō(r)məs /
L + Ecf
[Note: Speller should not confuse with obsolete form enormous.]
marked by extraordinarily great size, amount, number, degree, scope, intensity, or significance.
The documentary depicted the enormous task of building the Panama Canal.

enraptured

v
/ ʔn'rapchə(r)d /
L
filled with delight : gratified completely.
As Timmy entered the room, he was enraptured by the sight of the tree and the many presents.

enshroud

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

ensteel

v
/ ɛnz'tē(ə)l /

E
make hard and strong.
Mr. Simpson explained that one step in making silver jewelry is to hammer the metal well to ensteel it.

ensuant

entelechy

enthalpy

n
/ ˈen.thəlpi /

Gk
a thermodynamic quantity that is the sum of the internal energy of a body and the product of its volume multiplied by the pressure—called also “heat content.”
To help determine the change in enthalpy, Gruen carefully specified the physical states of all the reactants and products.

enthusiasm

enthusiast

enthusiastic

adj
/ ɛn.th(y)üzē'astik /

Gk
having an ardent, receptive, responsive temperament.
Myron's enthusiastic nature infected the rest of the students.

enticement

entirely

entirety

entomb

entrammel

entrapment

n
/ ɛn'trapmənt /

F
the luring by an officer of the law of a person into the commission of a crime in order that the person may be prosecuted for the offense.
The jury felt that the evidence indicated police entrapment, so they acquitted the defendant.

entrechat

n
/ ɛntrə'shā /

L > It > F
a leap during which a ballet dancer repeatedly crosses the legs.
The audience watched in fascination as Nureyev performed a seemingly effortless entrechat.

entrée

entrepreneurial

entresol

entropy

n
/ ˈentrəpi /

Gk
the ultimate state reached in the degradation of the matter and energy of the universe.
The laws of physics state that all things tend toward entropy.

enumerated

v
/ ɛn(y)ümə'rādəd /

L
related one after another : listed.
When the waiter had enumerated the dessert choices, making a single selection was difficult.

enunciatively

envious

environ

environment

envision

v
/ ɛn'vizhən /

L + L
have a mental picture of especially in advance of realization.
When she was a child, Calinda would often envision her life as a famous writer or painter.

envoy

n
/ ˈen.voi /

F
any person delegated to represent one sovereign or government in its relations with another.
The Enterprise conveyed the envoy to the peace conference without incident.

eohippus

n
/ ˌēō'hipəs /

Gk + Gk
an animal or fossil of a genus of small primitive 4-toed horses of the Lower Eocene of the western United States.
Modern horses are descended from the eohippus.

colith

epaxial

adj
/ e'paksēəl /

Gk
located above or on the dorsal side of a straight line with respect to which a body, figure, or system of points is either radially or bilaterally symmetrical.
The epaxial muscles along the human spine are relatively large.

epenthesis

n
/ ɛ'pen(t)thəsəs /

Gk
the insertion of a letter in a word to make the spelling conform to the pronunciation.
The word nymel became nimble by epenthesis.

epergne

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

epexegetis

n
/ ˌɛ.pɛksəˈʒɛsəs /
Gk + Gk

an explanation following a word or larger part of a text that limits its application or clarifies its meaning. *An epexegetis is often set off from the rest of a sentence by commas or parentheses.*

ephelis

ephemerally

ephemerid

n
/ əˈfɛm(ə)rəd /
Gk

a mayfly. *An ephemerid has membranous wings that fold flat over the back.*

epibiont

epic

adj
/ ˈɛpɪk /
Gk
[has near homonym: epoch]
extending beyond the usual or ordinary especially in size or scope. *The movie's epic scale succeeded brilliantly according to most critics.*

epicardia

n
/ ˌɛpəˈkɑrdɪə /
Gk
the short part of the esophagus extending from the diaphragm to the stomach. *The medical student was asked to identify the patient's epicardia during surgery.*

epicenter

n
/ ˈɛpəsɛntə(r) /
Gk > L
the part of Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake. *An earthquake whose epicenter is on the ocean floor may cause a tsunami.*

epidemiologist

n
/ ˌɛpəˌdɛmɪˈɒləjəst /
Gk
a specialist in the science that deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in a population. *The epidemiologist strongly recommended that all children be inoculated with the chicken pox vaccine.*

epiglottis

n
/ ˌɛpəˈglɑdɪs /
Gk
the fold of tissue that covers the airway during the act of swallowing. *Breathing opens the epiglottis and allows free passage of air to the lungs.*

epiglottitis

epigonism

n
/ əˈpɪɡəˌnɪzəm /
Gk + Ecf
artistic, literary, or intellectual imitation especially by a later generation. *The Pre-Raphaelite movement in the mid-19th century arose from epigonism of the artistic principles of the 14th century.*

epigrammatic

epigraph

epilithic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈlɪθɪk /
Gk + Gk
growing on stone or stonelike material. *Some species of snails feed on epilithic lichen.*

epinephrine

epipelagic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈpələjɪk /
Gk
of or relating to the part of the oceanic zone into which enough light for photosynthesis penetrates. *Creatures living below the epipelagic zone are often blind.*

epiphanic

adj
/ ˌɛpəˈfʌnɪk /
Gk
of or having the character of a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something. *Oliver had the epiphanic realization that his cat had gained weight because she was about to have kittens.*

epiphora

n
/ əˈpɪfərə /
Gk + Gk
a watering of the eyes due to excessive secretion of tears or to obstruction of the lacrimal passages. *Blocked tear ducts were determined to be the cause of the patient's epiphora.*

epiphyte

n
/ ˈɛpəˈfɪt /
Gk
a plant that derives its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain and grows usually on another plant. *Spanish moss is a ubiquitous epiphyte on trees in the South.*

epistaxis

n
/ ˌɛpəˈstʌksəs /
Gk
nosebleed. *During his illness, Henri had frequent bouts of epistaxis, so he learned to keep a box of tissues handy at all times.*

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency

epistemic

adj

/ ˌepəˈstēmik /

Gk

of, having the character of, or relating to knowledge or knowing as a type of experience.

Sol thought the self-evidence of it all was epistemic justification enough for his belief that the world existed.

epistolography

n

/ ˌəpɪstəˈlɑːgrəfē /

Gk

the art or practice of writing epistles : letter writing.

The widespread use of e-mail has revived a form of epistolography.

epithelium

n

/ ˌepəˈthēlēəm /

Gk + Gk

a cellular animal tissue consisting of one or more layers of cells that serves to enclose and protect the other parts of the body.

Humans have about 26 million sensory cells per square inch of olfactory epithelium.

epollicate

epopt

n

/ ˈe.pəpt /

Gk

one instructed in a secret system.

Because Ivan was an inexperienced investor, he treated his stockbroker like an epopt.

epos

n

/ ˈe.pəs /

Gk

a body of poetry expressing the tradition of a people.

The ancient epos survived in later literature.

epsilon

equalize

equatable

equational

equerry

n

/ ˈɛkwərē /

L&F

an officer of princes or nobles charged with the care of their horses.

The royal equerry had his men prepare the horses for the fox hunt.

equestrian

adj

/ ˌɛkwestrēən /

L + Ecf

[has near homonym: equestrienne] of, relating to, or featuring horseback riding.

The artist was best known for his equestrian paintings.

equidistant

adj

/ ˌɛkwəˈdɪstənt /

L

being of the same measure apart.

The neighborhood grocery and video stores are equidistant from Josh's home.

equipollence

n

/ ˌɛkwəˈpälən(t)s /

L + L

the quality or state of being equal in force, power, or validity.

One form of paradox consists in the apparent equipollence of two propositions, one of which is the negation of the other.

equipollent

equitation

equivocal

equivocation

n

/ ˌɛkwɪvəˈkāshən /

L

the act or an instance of making a statement that deviates from or misconstrues the truth.

Felicity knew that equivocation about the matter would keep her out of trouble, but she was forthright in her response.

eraser

erosion

eremic

adj

/ ˌɛrēmik /

Gk

of or relating to deserts or sandy regions.

Georgia O'Keeffe painted several famous eremic landscapes.

eremitic

erg

n

/ ˈɛrg /

Gk

an absolute centimeter-gram-second unit of work representing the work done by a force of 1 dyne acting through a displacement of 1 centimeter in the direction of the force.

Dr. Young planned to introduce the erg in his next physics lesson.

ergonomist

n

/ (ˌ)ɛrˈgänəmɪst /

Gk

a specialist in biotechnology.

David ordered a desk chair specially designed by an ergonomist to prevent discomfort from prolonged sitting.

ergophobia

erimeter

eristic

adj

/ ˌɛrɪstɪk /

Gk

characterized by disputatious often subtle and specious reasoning.

The debater used eristic double-talk to impress the judges.

erode

erose

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erosion

n
/ əˈrɒʒhən /
L

land destruction and simultaneous removal of particles (as of soil) by running water, waves and currents, moving ice, or wind.

In some hilly areas terraces are built to protect soils from erosion.

errant

erroneously

adv
/ əˈrɒnəʊsl̩ /
L > E

in a manner deviating from what is true, correct, right, or wise.

The noun phenomena is sometimes used erroneously with a singular verb.

error

eruciform

adj
/ əˈrʊsəˌfɔrm /
L

of an insect larva : having a soft cylindrical body with a distinct head and usually short thoracic legs : caterpillarlike.

Fred knew that the eruciform larva would spin a cocoon from which a butterfly would emerge.

erythema

n
/ ɛrəˈθēmə /
Gk > L

abnormal redness of the skin due to capillary congestion (as in inflammation).

A small area of erythema on the back of Hillary's hand demarcated the burn.

erythrocyte

erythrophobia

n
/ əˈrɪθrəˈfɒbiə /
Gk

fear of blushing.

Marvin's erythrophobia is so severe that speaking in public is torture for him.

erythroptisia

n
/ ɛrəˈθrɒpsɪə /
Gk

a visual disturbance in which all objects appear reddish.

Cyrus erroneously thought that the expression "seeing the world through rose-colored glasses" had something to do with erythroptisia.

escabeche

n
/ ɛskəˈbæʃə /
Ar > Sp

fish or chicken fried in oil then marinated in a spicy sauce and served cold.

Elena's recipe for escabeche came from her mother's favorite Spanish cookbook.

escalate

escapade

escapement

n
/ əˈskæpmənt /
L > F

the device in a timepiece which controls the motion of the train of wheelwork.

The use of an escapement in clocks dates back to the 14th century.

escarole

n
/ ɛskəˈrɒl /
L > It > F

an annual or biennial herb widely cultivated as a salad plant.

Helga tossed a salad of escarole, mushrooms, and tomatoes.

escharotic

eschatological

eschatology

n
/ ɛskəˈtæləʒi /
Gk

a study or science dealing with the ultimate destiny or purpose of humanity and the world.

Min's doctoral thesis in philosophy addresses the development of eschatology among Asian cultures.

escheator

esclavage

escolar

esculent

escutcheon

esne

n
/ ˈɛzn̩ /
E

a laborer or man of the lower classes among the Anglo-Saxons.

While working in the fields, the esne dreamed of marrying the master's daughter and living in the manor house.

espousal

n
/ əˈspəʊzəl /
L > F > E

a taking up or adopting as a cause or belief.

The senator's espousal of a national health program has not wavered during his three terms.

esquamulose

esquisse

essay

essayist

n
/ ˈɛsəɪst /
L > F

a writer of analytic, interpretative, or critical literary compositions.

As an essayist, Emerson can hardly be surpassed.

essential

estafette

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estate

n
/ ɛ'stāt /
F > E
the aggregate of property or liabilities of all kinds that a person leaves for disposal at his or her death.

The estate of the deceased billionaire has been tied up in lawsuits for over 12 years.

estimate

v
/ 'estə.māt /
L
judge the value of.
Arthur asked a real estate appraiser to estimate the house.

estrangle

etching

ethereal

ethics

ethnocentric

ethylene

n
/ 'ethə.lēn /
Gk > ISV
a colorless flammable gas found in coal gas or obtained from petroleum hydrocarbons and used to ripen fruits or as an anesthetic.
When ethylene is polymerized, the product is polyethylene, a plastic material used for making containers.

etymological

adj
/ .edə.mə'lājəkəl /
Gk
belonging to, based on, or in accord with the history often including the prehistory of a linguistic form (as a word or morpheme).
The etymological meaning of the word hippopotamus is "river horse."

etymologicon

Eucharist

n
/ 'yūk(ə)rəst /
Gk
a central rite in many Christian churches in which bread and wine are consecrated by the officiating member of the clergy and consumed as symbols for the realization of a spiritual union between Christ and communicant or as the body and blood of Christ.
The Eucharist is considered by most Christian churches to be the central act of the worship service.

eucharistic

adj
/ ,yūkə'ristik /
Gk > L
manifesting or expressing praise and thanksgiving.
Bianca composed a eucharistic poem for the festival.

eucrasia

n
/ yū'krāzh(ē)ə /
Gk + Gk
a normal state of health : physical well-being.
To the ancient Greeks, eucrasia resulted from the appropriate balance of the four humors: blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm.

audiometer

n
/ ,yüdə'ämədə(r) /
Gk
an instrument for the volumetric measurement and analysis of gases that involves the explosion of one of the components of the mixture by the passage of an electric spark.
Rodney managed to set the chemistry lab on fire because he did not understand how to use the audiometer.

eugenics

n pl
/ yū'jeniks /
Gk + Gk
a science that deals with the improvement of hereditary qualities in a series of generations of a race or breed.
Using eugenics to create a super20race of human beings is a common theme in science fiction.

eulogistic

euonym

euphemize

euphenics

n pl
/ yū'feniks /
Gk + Gk
a science that deals with the biological improvement of human beings after birth.
Many people believe that euphenics will be as common as dentistry in the next century.

euphonious

adj
/ yū'fōnēəs /
Gk
[Note: Could be confused with euphonous.] pleasing in sound.
Allison is noted for her euphonious voice and clear enunciation.

euphonium

n
/ yū'fōnēəm /
Gk + Ecf
a tenor tuba similar in shape, pitch, and range to the baritone but with a larger bore, a mellower tone quality, and often a double bell.
Rocky's mom made him practice his euphonium in the barn.

euphony

euphoria

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euphuism

n
/ 'yüfyəwizəm /
Gk > E name
[has near homonym: euphemism]
artificial and excessive elegance of
language : high-flown diction.
*Eli's penchant for euphuism is kept
in check by his English teacher, Dr.
Holquist.*

eupraxia

Euripidean

adj
/ yə'ripə'dēən /
Gk name
of, relating to, or characteristic of
the Greek playwright Euripides or
his tragedies.
*In Euripidean tragedy, the chorus
provides charming interludes of
song and dance.*

European

adj
/ ,yürə'pēən /
Gk
of, relating to, or belonging to
Europe or its inhabitants.
*Since John, an Englishman, has a
European Union passport, he is
allowed to work in France.*

euryphagous

eustachian

adj
/ yü'stāshən /
It name
of or relating to the bony and
cartilaginous tube connecting the
cavity of the middle ear with the
nasopharynx.
*As he began his dive, John pinched
his nose, closed his mouth, and
attempted to blow out to allow his
eustachian tubes to equalize the
pressure in his ears.*

eutely

evacuate

evadable

evanesce

evangel

n
/ ə'vanjəl /
Gk
a doctrine regarded as having
special grace, sanction, or efficacy.
*Elizabeth Cady Stanton called for a
new evangel of womanhood to exalt
purity, virtue, and morality.*

evangelist

evaporation

n
/ ə,vapə'rāshən /
L
the change by which any substance
is converted from a liquid state into
and carried off in vapor.
*The Mediterranean Sea loses much
water through evaporation, leaving
behind extra-salty water that sinks
to the bottom.*

evection

n
/ ə'vekshən /
L
perturbation of the Moon's motion
in its orbit due to the attraction of
the Sun.
*Herman's tidal calculations didn't
account for evection; as a result, he
was left high and dry.*

evenhanded

evermore

evidence

n
/ 'evədən(t)s /
L
something legally submitted to a
competent tribunal as a means of
ascertaining the truth of any alleged
matter of fact under investigation
before it.
*The suspect's fingerprints on the
murder weapon were sufficient
evidence for his arrest.*

evil

evolution

evolvable

evulsion

ewe

ewer

exacerbation

n
/ ig,zasə(r)'bāshən /
L
the act of making more violent,
bitter, or severe.
*Vigorous exercise can lead to acute
exacerbation of asthmatic
symptoms.*

exaggeration

n
/ ig,zajə'rāshən /
L
the act of enlarging beyond bounds
or the truth : overstatement.
*Uncle Joe's description of the fish
he caught was a gross
exaggeration.*

examen

n
/ ig'zāmən /
L
a critical study (as of a writer or a
phenomenon).
*Vera's research was a sound,
brilliant examen of the most
powerful English poet of this
century.*

examination

examine

v
/ ig'zamən /
L > F > E
inquire into the state of especially
by introspective processes.
*Shumin's father told her to examine
her conscience first and then
consider how her action might look
to other people.*

exanthematic

adj
/ eg,zan(t)thə'madik /
Gk
of or relating to an eruptive
disease—used especially of those
attended with fever (as in measles,
smallpox, and scarlatina).
*Mrs. Hu decided that Wilson's rash
was not exanthematic, so she let
him go out to play.*

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exasperate

exasperated

adj
/ ɪg'zaspə.rədəd /
L

irritated or annoyed especially to the point of injudicious action.
The movie star became so exasperated with the photographers that he hurled his shoe at them.

excavation

excavator

n
/ 'ekske.vədə(r) /
L

a worker who digs out material or digs cavities (as in quarrying or for building construction).
The excavator gasped when the side of the pit gave way to reveal a dark chamber.

exceed

v
/ ik'sēd /
L > F > E

[Note: Alternate pron has near homonym: accede.] go beyond a limit set by (as an authority or privilege).
Drivers who exceed the speed limit in the construction zone will be fined a minimum of 200 dollars.

excel

exception

n
/ ik'sepshən /
L

the act of excluding or omitting.
The librarian made an exception and permitted Sandy to take a reference book out of the library.

excerpt

excipient

exclusive

adj
/ ik'sklüsiv /
L

barring from participation : snobbishly aloof.
The exclusive dog show allowed only registered dogs to participate.

excogitate

v
/ ek'skājətāt /
L

examine mentally with thoroughness and care so as to obtain thorough grasp and comprehension of.
Lindsay tried to excogitate the topic thoroughly and outline his thoughts.

excrecency

excrescential

excruciating

adj
/ ik'skrūshē.ātīŋ /
L

very intense : extreme.
An excruciating toothache kept Marcel from enjoying the camping trip.

execrable

adj
/ 'eksəkrəbəl /
L

deserving to be declared evil or detestable.
For his execrable cruelty to the victim, the assailant was given the maximum prison sentence.

executive

exegeis

exegetical

adj
/ eksə'jedəkəl /
Gk

relating to critical interpretation of a text or portion of Scripture.
The theologian was praised for his exegetical commentaries on the Old Testament.

exemplify

exemplum

exempt

exequies

n pl
/ 'eksəkwez /
L > F > E
funeral rites or ceremonies.
The late king's exequies were solemnized with great pomp.

exergue

exfoliative

adj
/ ek'sfōlē.ādīv /
L
causing or characterized by the peeling of the outer layer of the skin.
Phil's rash was diagnosed as exfoliative dermatitis.

exhalation

n
/ eks(h)ə'lāshən /
L > F > E
something that is given off or that rises in the form of gas, fumes, or steam.
The wind carried a foul exhalation from the nearby marsh to the Ackrill's house.

exhaust

n
/ ɪg'zɔst /
L
an arrangement (as of fans) for withdrawing undesirable fumes, dusts, or odors from an enclosure (as a factory room or a kitchen).
The safety inspector told Sharon that the greasy residue on the kitchen exhaust was a fire hazard.

exhausting

adj
/ ɪg'zɔstīŋ /
L
depriving wholly of strength, patience, or resources.
Robert's exhausting exercise routine left him not only very tired but also very hungry.

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exhibited

v
/ ig'zibədəd /
L

presented to view : showed, displayed.

Elizabeth Ellen brought her decorated cake into the room and exhibited it quite proudly.

exhilarated

v
/ ig'zilərədəd /
L

made cheerful : enlivened.

The sailor felt exhilarated as his boat headed into the wind.

exhume

v
/ ig'züm /
L

dig out of the ground : take out of a place of burial.

No matter where the bone is buried, the dog will be able to exhume it.

exigencies

n pl
/ 'eksəjənsēz /
L

requirements in a particular situation.

The Supreme Court supported the theory of presidential power to meet national exigencies.

existence

exogenous

adj
/ ek'sājənəs /
Gk + Gk

originating from or due to external causes.

The politician argued that the labor strife in his city was exogenous in nature.

exonumia

exorcism

exostosis

n
/ ek.sä'stōsəs /
Gk

a spur or bony outgrowth from a bone or the root of a tooth.

The exostosis on Bertha's big toe had to be surgically removed.

expectant

adj
/ ik'spektənt /
L

characterized by anticipation : waiting.

The expectant crowd outside the palace gates had been in place since before dawn.

expedient

expediently

adv
/ ik'spēdēntlē /
L

in a manner characterized by suitability, practicality, and efficiency.

It is the responsibility of the customer service representative to handle all complaints expediently.

expedite

expel

experiential

adj
/ ik.spirē'enchəl /
L

derived from, based on, or relating to experience : empirical.

Although based on experiential procedures and findings, many great scientific discoveries involve a degree of intuition and luck.

experiment

expertise

n
/ ek.spər'tēz /
L

specialized skill or technical knowledge in a particular field.

Jonathan's expertise in database management netted him an excellent job.

expiration

n
/ ekspə'rāshən /
L > E

the action or process of releasing air through the nose or the mouth.

Mrs. Burnet's expiration was strained after her operation.

expired

explanation

explement

expletive

explicit

explore

v
/ ik'splō(ə)r /
L

search through or into.

"Dr. Craven had indeed begun to wonder if it might not be wise to send some one out to explore the garden paths."

explosible

exponentially

adv
/ ekspə'nenchəlē /
L

in a manner indicating variation in which one variable factor depends upon another variable factor, characterized by an extremely rapid increase (as in size or extent).

For the past decade, sales of video games have been growing exponentially.

expound

v
/ ik'spaund /
L > F > E

make a statement : present a view : comment.

The interviewer asked Shana to expound on the new park proposal.

expression

