

pipetted

v

/ pɪˈpɛdəd /

F

transferred, drawn off, measured, or applied with a small piece of apparatus which in simplest form consists of a narrow glass tube into which liquid is drawn up by suction and in which it is retained by closing the upper end.

Dizzy warned her lab students never to use their mouths to apply suction when they pipetted solutions.

planar

adj

/ ˈplānə(r) /

L

[has homonyms: plainer, planer] lying in one surface defined by three points.

Section 13.4 of Kew's textbook explained that a molecule with three atoms can be either linear or planar.

plank

v

/ ˈplʌŋk /

E

cook and serve on a heavy board usually with an elaborate garnish. *Native Americans of the Northwest used red cedar boards to plank salmon and other fish.*

platter

n

/ ˈpladə(r) /

F > E

a woman's low-crowned hat that is distinctly flat in silhouette. *Atop the model's head was a platter trimmed with a veil and a silk camellia.*

plaza

n

/ ˈpläzə /

L > Sp

a public square in a city or town. *The summer festival was held under the stars in the plaza.*

pleased

adj

/ ˈplēzd /

L > F > E

affected with or manifesting pleasure : contented, gratified. *Steve's parents were extremely pleased that he finally made the honor roll.*

plot

v

/ ˈplät /

E

plan or contrive.

Ogilvie refused to plot against his sister in spite of her treachery.

plumb

v

/ ˈpləm /

E

[has homonym: plum] examine minutely and critically.

Heraclitus attempted to plumb the depths of his soul, but never found its limit.

plumicorn

n

/ ˈplüməkörn /

L

one of the tufts of lengthened feathers on the head of various owls.

Paul's cat's hair is so long that it looks like she has a plumicorn in front of each ear.

plutonian

adj

/ plü'tōnēən /

Gk name

grim and gloomy : harsh and unpleasing.

*Some people would describe van Gogh's dark backgrounds as "plutonian."***poach**

v

/ 'pōch /

Gmc > F > E

cook in a liquid kept just below the boiling point.

*The doctor told Betsy that she should boil or poach her morning eggs to keep their calorie count down.***pocket**

n

/ 'pākət /

Gmc > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an English unit for hops equal to 168 pounds.

*Cedric, the town's brewmaster, was panicked to find only 1 pocket of hops in the storeroom.***pod**

n

/ 'pād /

E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. In addition, word has near homonym: pawed.] a number of animals (as seals or whales) closely clustered together : school.

*A pod of four or five whales was about 50 yards starboard.***poker**

n

/ 'pōkə(r) /

F?

one of several card games in which a player bets that the value of the hand held is greater than the value of the hands held by the other players.

*When Billy came home, he was shocked to find his mother and her friends playing poker instead of bridge in the living room.***polarimetric**

adj

/ pō.larə'metrik /

L > ISV + Gk > ISV

of or relating to the use of an instrument that determines the amount of polarization of light or the proportion of polarized light in a partially polarized ray.

*Oki told his niece that polarimetric observations helped him study the interaction of plane-polarized light and chiral molecules.***polenta**

n

/ pō'lentə /

L > It

mush originally made of chestnut meal but now principally of cornmeal or sometimes of semolina or farina.

*Polenta is cooked very slowly on top of the stove and can be cut into slices after it cools.***polity**

n

/ 'pälədē /

Gk

political organization : civil order.

*Walter claims that any form of polity is more efficient, not morally better, than none.***polo**

n

/ 'pō(,)lō /

Balti

a game of Asian origin played by teams of three or four players mounted on horseback and using mallets with long flexible handles to drive a wooden ball down the field and through goalposts.

*The morning newspaper carried a picture of Prince Charles playing polo.***polska**

n

/ 'pōl.skə /

Pol > Sw

a Swedish folk dance derived from a Polish peasant dance.

The polska is usually danced to music in a minor key.

polydentate

adj

/ ˈpɑːləˌden.tət /

Gk + L

attached to the central atom in a coordination complex by two or more bonds.

Shara used a tripolyphosphate atom as an example in her efforts to explain the difference between polydentate ligands and other ligands.

polymorphic

adj

/ ˌpɑːləˈmɔːfɪk /

Gk + Gk

having or occurring in several distinct forms.

The polymorphic wild foxes of Canada are of the red, smoky, and silver types.

polyptoton

n

/ ˌpɑːləpˈtɒ.tən /

Gk

the rhetorical repetition of a word in a different case, inflection, or voice in the same sentence.

Tennyson's "my own heart's heart, and ownest own" well illustrates polyptoton in English.

pomology

n

/ pɒˈmɒlədʒi /

L + Gk

the science of the cultivation of fruits.

John became familiar with fungi such as American brown rot, apple rust, and banana freckle in his course in pomology.

ponder

v

/ ˈpɒndə(r) /

L > F > E

weigh in the mind.

The setback forced Orson to ponder his position.

pongee

n

/ pɒnˈdʒi /

Chin

a thin soft clothing and curtain fabric of Chinese origin woven from uneven threads of raw silk and possessing a characteristic ecru or tan color.

Sap's grandmother, who lives in China, sent her some curtains made of pongee.

pontiff

n

/ ˈpɒntɪf /

L > F

a high priest or chief religious figure.

Pope John Paul I was the Catholic pontiff for only one month.

popover

n

/ ˈpɒp.əvə(r) /

E + E

a quick bread made from a thin batter of eggs, milk, and flour and subjected in the first stage of baking to such heat that steam expands it into a hollow shell.

While a popover is delicious plain, it can also be served with various sweet or savory fillings.

porkpie

n

/ ˈpɔː(ə)r.k.pī /

L > F > E + E

a hat with a low telescoped crown, flat top, and brim turned up all around or up in back and down in front.

While dancing in his movies, Fred Astaire often wore a porkpie.

position

n

/ pəˈzɪʃən /

L

any of the postures of the feet and arms on which all steps and movements of classical ballet are based.

Mademoiselle Lebrun instructed the students to assume the first position.

postdoctoral

adj

/ postˈdɒkt(ə)rəl /

L + L

[Note: Speller might confuse doctoral with doctrial.] relating to, awarded for, or engaged in advanced academic or professional work after the attainment of a doctor's degree.

It seems that Skye will always be a student, for now he is immersed in postdoctoral studies.

posttest

n

/ 'pos(t).test /

L + L > F > E

an examination given to students after the completion of an instructional program to measure their achievement and the effectiveness of the program.

The teacher was mortified when half of her students failed the posttest.

potion

n

/ 'pōshən /

L

a liquid mixture or dose of a medicine or drug.

The princess declared haughtily that she had no need for a love potion.

pottle

n

/ 'pād·l /

E

a liquid or dry measure equal to ½ gallon.

The recipe in Ryan's colonial cookbook calls for a pottle of boiled milk.

pound

n

/ 'paund /

E

a unit of mass and weight equal to 16 avoirdupois ounces or 7,000 grains or 0.45359237 kilogram.

Donna's first job was selling candy by the pound at a bulk food store.

prayer

n

/ 'pra(a)(ə)r /

L > F > E

[Note: Could be confused with preyer.] a solemn and humble approach to a god or gods in word or thought, usually involving beseeching, petition, confession, praise, or thanksgiving.

Calvin shut his eyes and said a silent prayer before beginning the exam.

preach

v

/ 'prēch /

L > F > E

proclaim the gospel : discourse publicly on a religious subject or from a text of Scripture.

Dr. Mason is wont to preach the same sermon every Easter Sunday.

preemergent

adj

/ ,prēə'məɹjənt /

L + L

used or occurring before seedlings come forth or rise into view aboveground.

Dramatic success in weed control has been achieved with preemergent herbicides.

preengagement

n

/ ,prēən'gəɹmənt /

L + F + Ecf

a prior obligation.

Valerie's preengagement is a commitment to baby-sit her younger siblings.

preexist

v

/ ,prēɹg'zɪst /

L

have actual or real being before (something).

The monuments on Easter Island preexist written history.

pregnant

adj

/ 'pregnənt /

L

containing unborn young within the body.

The zoo director called a press conference to announce that both female pandas are pregnant.

pretty

adj

/ 'prɪdē /

E

pleasing by delicacy or grace.

The pretty little garden on Prospect Street was tended by Mrs. Walter's granddaughter.

pridian

adj

/ 'prɪdiən /

L

of or relating to a previous day or to yesterday; also : former.

As the bills accumulated, Gina began to doubt her plan to restore the Victorian mansion to its pridian glory.

procrastinating

v

/ prə'krastənədiŋ /

L

putting off intentionally and usually habitually and for a reason held to be reprehensible (as laziness, indifference to responsibility).

The boss's motto is that working leaves no time for brooding or procrastinating.

product

n

/ 'prɒ(ɪ)dəkt /

L

the number or magnitude resulting from the multiplication together of two or more numbers or magnitudes.

The product of 9 and 7 is 63.

proficiency

n

/ prə'fɪʃənsē /

L

the quality or state of being well advanced in an art, occupation, skill, or a branch of knowledge.

Through steady practice the batter attained great proficiency at bunting the ball.

projectionist

n

/ prə'jeksh(ə)nəst /

L

one who operates a motion-picture projector.

The skilled projectionist quickly repaired the break in the film.

proneur

n

/ prə'nɜr /

F

flatterer, eulogist.

Mr. Dirking was a convincing proneur and succeeded in obtaining the most votes.

pronto

adv

/ 'prɒn(ɪ)tō /

L > Sp

quickly, promptly.

The principal bellowed, "Get in here, pronto!"

property

n

/ 'prɒpə(r)dē /

L

any article or object used in a play or motion picture except painted scenery and actors' costumes.

A large mirror was a stage property used in the first act.

protasis

n

/ 'prɒtəsəs /

Gk

the opening lines especially of a drama or narrative poem : introduction.

In the protasis a narrator gives the background for the first scene of the play.

protein

n
/ 'prō.tēn /

Gk > F + ISV

any of a very large class of naturally occurring extremely complex combinations of amino acids.

The dietician was concerned by the amount of protein in Jenny's daily diet.

Protestant

n
/ 'präd.əstənt /

L
a Christian not of a Roman Catholic or an Eastern church.

Mark, a staunch Protestant, felt out of place during mass when the friends he was visiting rose to take communion.

protium

n
/ 'prō.dēəm /

Gk + ISVcf

the ordinary light hydrogen isotope of atomic mass 1.

Protium, one of the two stable isotopes of hydrogen, accounts for 99.985 percent of the naturally occurring hydrogen on Earth.

protonate

v
/ 'prōt'n.āt /

Gk + Ecf

add a positively charged elementary particle to.

Styro remembers the diagram of how to protonate acetic acid molecules by thinking of a horizontal Y.

protrusile

adj
/ prō'trūsīl /

L
so made that it can be thrust out.

Only in slow motion could we see the frog's protrusile tongue snatch the insect.

protuberance

n
/ prō't(y)üb(ə)rən(t)s /

L
the quality or state of being thrust forward or out.

The protuberance on the plank of wood was easily sanded down.

proud

adj
/ 'praüd /

L > F > E

highly satisfied or pleased : elated.
Mike was proud to be a member of the municipal police force.

proverb

n
/ 'prä.vərb /

L
a brief epigrammatic saying that is a popular byword.

Clark's favorite proverb is "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

prowler

n
/ 'praülə(r) /

E
one that roams over (an area) in a predatory manner; especially : a sneak thief.

Police warned residents to stay out of the park at night because there was a prowler on the loose.

psychodrama

n
/ 'sī(ˌ)kō.drämə /

Gk + Gk

a usually unrehearsed dramatic play designed to afford catharsis and social relearning for one or more of the participants from whose life history the plot is abstracted.

The family members acted out a psychodrama of what went wrong with their relationships.

psychokinesis

n
/ .sī(ˌ)kōkə'nēsəs /

Gk + Gk

the production or alteration of motion by influence of the mind without use of physical means.

The psychologist told of a gambler who claimed he could influence the fall of dice by psychokinesis.

pudding

n
/ 'püdiŋ /

E

a usually boiled or baked sweetened dessert of a soft, spongy, or thick creamy consistency.

After Gage had his wisdom teeth removed, he ate only rice pudding and milkshakes for three days.

pulsing

v
/ 'pʌlsɪŋ /
L + Ecf

moving in beats or periodic spurts : vibrating with life, sound, or light.
Jake's legs were pulsing with the energy released as the waves crashed on the dock under his feet.

pump

n
/ 'pʌmp /
unknown

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a low shoe not fastened on and gripping the foot chiefly at the toe and heel.
Lois hobbled off the dance floor carrying a pump and its detached heel.

punt

n
/ 'pʌnt /
L > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word. Also, similar word pont, with similar definition, exists.] a long narrow flat-bottomed boat with square ends usually propelled with a pole.
Peter stretched out in the punt and floated slowly to the other side of the pond.

pupil

n
/ 'pyüpəl /
L

a child or young person in school or in the charge of a tutor or instructor : student.
Every year at least one pupil in Miss Simpson's kindergarten class is already a skilled reader.

puppetry

n
/ 'pəpətrē /
L > F > E

shows featuring small-scale figures of human or other living beings often constructed with jointed limbs and moved usually on a small stage by a rod or by hand from below or by strings or wires from above.
The children's favorite entertainment at the fair was the comical puppetry.

puree

v
/ pyü'rā /
L > F

boil soft and then rub through a sieve.
Geneva began to puree vegetables for the baby when he was six months old.

purify

v
/ 'pyürəfī /
L > F > E

cleanse ceremonially.
In Native American religions the sweat lodge is used to purify the body and heal the spirit.

purloiner

n
/ pə(r)'lɔɪnə(r) /
L > F > E

thief.
The purloiner was apprehended as soon as he left the store.

pyrometallurgical

adj
/ ,pɪrō.med'ɪrjəkəl /
Gk + Gk + Ecff

of or relating to the chemical science and technology that deals with the extraction of metals from their ores, refining them, and preparing them for use and which depends on heat action (as roasting and smelting).
The forest ranger told Sky that pyrometallurgical processes are an important source of sulfur dioxide, a major component of acid rain.

pyrostat

n
/ 'pɪrə.stat /
Gk + Gk

any of various automatic devices that when exposed to any manifestation of fire actuate a mechanism for giving a warning or for setting in operation a means of extinguishing the fire.
Most commercial fire alarms nowadays are not manual but are activated by a pyrostat.

quadrilingual

adj

/ ˌkwɑdrəˈlɪŋ(yə)wəl /

L

speaking or having knowledge of four languages.

*Mrs. Ramirez works for the State Department as a quadrilingual interpreter.***quagga**

n

/ ˈkwɑgə /

Bantu? > Afrikaans

a now-extinct wild ass of southern Africa related to the zebras but with stripes on the head, neck, and forebody.

*The quagga once roamed South Africa in large herds, but overhunting led to its extinction in the 1870s.***quart**

n

/ ˈkwɔrt /

L > F > E

a U.S. unit of liquid capacity equal to ¼ gallon or 57.75 cubic inches.

*When the oil light in Kevin's car came on, he stopped immediately and added a quart of oil.***quickstep**

n

/ ˈkwɪk.stɛp /

E + E

a combination of short rapid dance steps.

*The competition judges will check to make sure that the quickstep is performed precisely in time to the music.***quinquennially**

adv

/ kwɪnˈkwɛnᵻəlᵻ /

L

every five years.

*Marge's high school class holds a reunion quinquennially, and each time the intervening five years seems shorter and shorter.***quittance**

n

/ ˈkwɪtəns /

F

the act of freeing or releasing; specifically : discharge from a debt or an obligation.

*Joseph offered his cousin an official deed of quittance, saying that what he had already received was payment enough.***quivered**

v

/ ˈkwɪvə(r)d /

Gmc? > F? E + Ecf

shook or moved with slight tremulous motion : trembled.

*When George talked about tomorrow's race, his voice quivered with excitement.***rabbi**

n

/ ˈrɑbi /

Heb > Gk > L

one acting as the official leader of a Jewish congregation and performing various duties (as preaching, officiating at weddings and funerals).

Aaron decided to become a rabbi in his second year at the yeshiva.

racket

n
/ 'rækət /
imit

[has homonyms: rackets, racquet]
noisy, disturbing, or objectionable
talk or activity.

*Sojourner Truth said, "Where there
is so much racket, there must be
something out of kilter."*

raclette**radially**

adv
/ 'rædiəli /

L + Ecf
arranged or having parts arranged
like rays.

*Father Quinn's diagram was
radially arranged with his goals
placed in the center.*

rank

adj
/ 'ræŋk /
E

having a heavy offensive smell.

*There sat Ralph wreathed in smoke
from a rank cigar.*

Rankine

adj
/ 'ræŋkən /
Scot name

being, according to, or relating to
an absolute-temperature scale on
which the unit of measurement
equals a Fahrenheit degree and
according to which the freezing
point of water is 491.67 degrees
and the boiling point is 671.67
degrees.

*The Rankine degree is only five-
ninths of the Kelvin degree, but the
0 point of both scales is absolute
zero.*

rapper

n
/ 'ræpə(r) /
F > E

[Note: The definition provided is
not the one most commonly
associated with this word. In
addition, word has homonym:
rapper.] a short flat flexible steel
sword made with a handle at each
end and used in English folk
dancing.

*The folk dancing teacher had Maia
use a stick instead of a rapper until
her skills improved.*

rapture

n
/ 'ræptʃər /
L

Christ's raising up of his true
church and its members to a realm
above Earth where the whole
company will enjoy celestial bliss
with its Lord.

*A popular book series describes the
struggles of a group of believers
who are left behind after the
rapture to fight the forces of
darkness.*

rare

adj
/ 'ræ(a)(ə)r /
L > E

unusual, uncommon; specifically :
belonging to a small group or class.

*Argon is classified as a rare gas,
according to Larry's basic
chemistry textbook.*

Rastafarian

n
/ 'ræstə'færēən /
Ethiopian name

an adherent of a religious cult that
teaches the eventual redemption of
blacks and their return to Africa
and venerates Haile Selassie as a
god.

*The Rastafarian explained that his
religion requires that he eat only
natural and lightly cooked food.*

reactant

adj
/ rē'aktənt /

L
of, relating to, or marked by a substance that is transforming or changing chemically.
Jayne, knowing the quantities of each reactant substance, calculated how much product would form.

realistic

adj
/ rēə'listik /

F
facing reality squarely : not impractical or visionary.
A realistic review of his prospects of reaching the summit convinced Ted to turn back.

ream

n
/ 'rēm /
Ar > F > E

a quantity of paper in lots that vary in the number of sheets included.
There are normally 500 sheets in a ream of copy paper.

reason

v
/ 'rēzən /

F > E
use the power of thinking so as to arrive at conclusions.
George is able to reason brilliantly, but he seldom bothers.

recall

v
/ rə'kɔl /

E
summon forth a memory of : have a recollection or remembrance of.
The photograph album made Tony recall many scenes from his childhood.

recessionary

adj
/ rə'seshənərē /

L
of or relating to a period of reduced economic activity.
A recessionary cycle is characterized by a rising unemployment rate, falling profits and production, falling interest rates, and decelerating inflation.

recitalist

n
/ rə'sīd·ləst /
L > F + Ecff

one who performs programs of vocal or instrumental music.
The recitalist sang several romantic arias from various operas.

reckon

v
/ 'rekən /

E
conclude on the basis of a calculation or estimation.
As near as he can reckon, Mac has read a million pages in his life.

reclining

adj
/ rə'kliːnɪŋ /

L
bending or curving gradually back from the perpendicular.
The reclining figure in the painting bore a resemblance to Elmer Fudd.

recollect

v
/ ,rekə'lekt /

L
call to mind.
Fran could not recollect where he had seen the waiter before.

reconstitute

v
/ rē'kɔnzət(y)üt /

L
restore the composition of (as a concentrated juice) by adding water.
Mitch decided to reconstitute the canned tomato soup with milk instead of plain water.

recourse

n
/ 'rē.kō(ə)rs /

L > F > E
a turning to someone or something in search of help, support, protection, or safety.
If you lose your tickets, you have no recourse to obtain replacements.

recto

n
/ 'rek(ɪ)tō /

L
a right-hand page (as of a book) usually carrying an odd page number.

The librarian stamped the library's name on the first recto following the copyright page of each new book.

redhibition

n
/ .red(h)ə'bishən /

L
an annulment of the sale of an article and return of it to the seller because of some material defect.

Dad is convinced that his new car is a lemon and has engaged an attorney who specializes in consumer transactions and redhibition.

redox

adj
/ 'rē.däks /
L + Gk

[has near homonym: redux] of or relating to oxidation-reduction.

Juju's comment that every basic chemistry student knows that metathesis is not a redox reaction was not welcome at the study group.

reel

n
/ rēl /

E
[has homonym: real] a lively dance of the Scottish highlanders marked by circular figures and performed with gliding movements.

Several versions of the reel migrated to the Americas from Scotland.

reelected

v
/ .rēə'lekɔdəd /

L
selected (a person) by vote for another term in office.

The candidate himself was not surprised when he was not reelected.

reestablish

v
/ .rēə'stəblɪʃ /
L > F > E

set up, fix, or confirm again.

Mrs. Jackson thought that the start of the second semester would be a good time to reestablish the class rules.

reevaluate

v
/ .rēə'vəlyə.wāt /

L + L
examine and judge again concerning the worth, quality, significance, amount, degree, or condition of.

The company asked Chris to reevaluate the project's potential for profit.

reformatory

n
/ rə'fɔ(r)mə.tōrē /

L
a penal institution to which especially young or first offenders are committed for training and reformation.

For stealing automobiles the juvenile was sent to a reformatory until he reached the age of 18.

refreshment

n
/ rə'frefʃmənt /
F > E + Ecf

something (as food or drink) that restores strength and liveliness.

After watching the two-hour movie, Dan decided it was time for some refreshment.

refrigerative

adj
/ rə'frɪjə.rādɪv /

L
tending to cool.

The fan had a refrigerative effect on Frank's overheated body.

regenerative

adj
/ rē'jenə.rādɪv /

L
of, relating to, marked by, or using a process of replacing or producing anew.

The regenerative stage of a perennial plant's life cycle generally takes place during the winter months.

reincarnation

n
/ rē.in.kär'nāshən /
L

a fresh embodiment of someone or something.

The reincarnation of our nation's colonial capital was initially funded by an endowment made by John D. Rockefeller Jr. in 1926.

relevancy

n
/ 'reləvənsē /
L

relation to the matter at hand.

The search engine ranked the Web sites according to the relevancy to the word being searched.

relish

n
/ 'relish /
F > E

a savory pickled or preserved food prepared from mixed chopped vegetables or fruits and usually served with meat.

Cameron put ketchup, onions, and pickle relish on his hot dog.

remand

v
/ rə'mand /
L

send (a person charged with a crime) back into custody by court order.

The judge decided to remand the prisoner to jail until his appeal could be considered.

remedy

n
/ 'remədē /
L > AF > E

something that relieves or cures a disease.

Mom's favorite remedy for a cold is chicken soup and lots of rest.

reminiscences

n pl
/ ,remə'nis'ɪn(t)səz /
L

remembered experiences.

The program about the history of jazz relied on reminiscences of several older musicians.

repair

v
/ rə'pa(a)(ə)r /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] go to a specified place for a specified purpose.

In his inaugural speech the president indicated his desire to repair at once to the post voters had assigned him.

reparations

n pl
/ ,repə'rāshənz /
L

the act of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury.

The judge ordered the cat burglar to make reparations to the victims of his crimes by standing guard outside their homes each night.

repeated

adj
/ rə'pēdəd /
L > F > E

renewed or recurring again and again : frequent.

Mark was taken out of the game for his repeated fouls.

respell

v

/ rē'spell /

L > Ecf + Gmc > F > E

name the letters of again, anew, or in another way.

Marilyn gave her students a chance to respell all the misspelled words in their essays.

respirator

n

/ 'respə.rədə(r) /

L

a device for protecting the respiratory tract.

Adam wore a filter respirator when he worked in his laboratory.

resurge

v

/ rə'sətj /

L

[has homonym: reserge] rise again : become resurrected.

Byron wonders if negative feelings toward his brother will resurge when his brother comes home from college.

revelation

n

/ .revə'lāshən /

L

an act of revealing or communicating divine truth.

The humanist view is that religion is a human creation rather than a revelation from a god or gods.

rhabdomancy

n

/ 'rəbdə.mən(t)sē /

Gk

divination by rods or wands.

Harry Potter tried throwing a handful of rods on the floor, but he didn't know enough about rhabdomancy to read the pattern.

rheometer

n

/ rē'ämədə(r) /

Gk + Gk

an instrument for measuring the flow of viscous substances.

A rheometer is used for measuring the flow properties of powders, granules, and wet mixes in the drug and cosmetic industries.

rhinophonia

n

/ .rɪnə'fɒnēə /

Gk + Gk

marked nasal resonance.

The principal's voice is so characterized by rhinophonia that he is called "Mr. Quack" behind his back.

ricer

n

/ 'rɪsə(r) /

Gk > It > F > E

a kitchen utensil designed for pressing cooked soft vegetables or uncooked soft foods through a perforated container so that the resulting product emerges as strings about the diameter of a grain of rice.

Jerry pushed all of the cooked turnips through the ricer.

rinkafadda

n
/ 'rɪŋkə'fæθə /
IrGael

an Irish dance resembling the Virginia reel.

Brendan loved to step dance, but he refused to even try the rinkafadda.

rochet

n
/ 'ræçhət /
F

a white ecclesiastical garment resembling a surplice worn especially by bishops and privileged prelates.

The bishop entered the sanctuary wearing his rochet and miter.

rodeo

n
/ 'rɒdē.ə /
L > Sp

a public performance that features especially contests in calf roping and bull riding.

Little Mikey was only six, but he took the blue ribbon for "Tiny Tot Calf Roping" at the rodeo.

rookie

n
/ 'rʊkē /
(L > F)&E

a new member of or candidate for an athletic team.

In 1963 Pete Rose was chosen as the National League's Rookie of the Year

rosary

n
/ 'rɒz(ə)rē /
L

a string of beads used in counting prayers.

Eugenia's collection of prayer beads includes a rosary that was blessed by the Pope.

rosemary

n
/ 'rɒz.merē /
L > E

a fragrant shrubby mint that has a warm pungent bitterish taste and is used as a culinary herb and in perfumery.

Monique's mother made her a cup of tea flavored with rosemary.

rosy

adj
/ 'rɒzē /
Gk > L > E

having a rose-colored complexion : healthy, blooming.

Ally's rosy appearance belies how sick she feels.

rotten

adj
/ 'rɒt'n /
E

decayed, putrid.

On at least one day every summer, we put on our work clothes, go out in the garden, and have a good old-fashioned rotten tomato fight.

rowan

n
/ 'raʊən /
Scand

a Eurasian tree with pinnate leaves and flat corymbs of small white flowers followed by red pomes resembling berries—called also “European mountain ash.”

The rowan at the edge of Aunt Fiona’s garden was damaged during the ice storm.

ruff

v
/ 'rʌf /
F

[has homonym: rough] play a trump card when another suit is led.
Alice held so many trump cards that she was able to ruff all but two tricks of the bridge hand.

rugby

n
/ 'rʌɡbē /
E name

a football game which is played with an oval ball by teams of 15 players each and in which play is continuous.

After playing rugby for two hours, Terence was so dirty his mother made him rinse off outside under the garden hose.

runnels

n pl
/ 'rʌnˈlz /
E

rivulets, streamlets.

The earthen dam gave way soon after runnels of water zigzagged down its bank.

runny

adj
/ 'rʌnē /
E

excessively soft and liquid.

The dough for the bran muffins seemed much too runny to Tom.

sabbath

n
/ 'səbəθ /
Heb > Gk > L > F > E

the day of rest and solemn assembly observed as sacred to God by Jews and some Christian churches on the seventh day of the week from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday.

Orthodox Jews do not drive or ride in vehicles on the sabbath; if they want to travel on Saturdays, they must walk.

safecracking

n
/ 'səf.krækɪŋ /
E + E

the act or process of breaking into a safe especially by explosives to burglarize it.

The robbers’ attempt at safecracking was abruptly ended by the alert guard dogs.

saint

n
/ 'sānt /
L > F > E

one officially recognized or acknowledged as preeminent for consecration, holiness, and piety especially through canonization by one of the branches of the Christian church.

Elizabeth Seton, who founded the order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, was the first native-born American to be canonized as a saint.

salivate

v
/ 'salə.vāt /
L

produce in the mouth an excessive flow of a secretion that serves to lubricate ingested food.

Whenever Alison thinks about sushi, she begins to salivate.

salsa

n
/ 'sɔlsə /
L > Sp

popular music of Latin American origin that has absorbed characteristics of rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock.

Salsa has given its name to a generic style of Latin American dancing.

salt

n
/ 'sɔlt /
E

any of a class of compounds typified by sodium chloride that are derived from acids by replacement of part or all of the acid hydrogen by a metal or radical acting like a metal.

Before taking chemistry, Tak thought that all salt was the same.

sambal

n
/ 'səmbäl /
Malay

a condiment made typically of peppers, pickles, grated coconut, salt fish, or fish roe and eaten especially with curry and rice in and around Indonesia and Malaya.

Mindy ate a bowl of rice with vegetables and sambal for lunch.

sandshoe

n
/ 'sand.shü /
E + E

a shoe (as a sneaker) designed for wear in sandy ground.

After a walk on the dunes, Sandra stopped to retie her sandshoe.

saturated

adj
/ 'sachə.rədəd /
L

having the greatest concentration that can remain under given conditions (as of temperature and pressure) in the presence of the dissolved substance.

Raising the temperature of a saturated solution usually makes it no longer saturated because more solute can be dissolved at the higher temperature.

scan

v
/ 'skan /
L > E

look through or over hastily.

The students asked the teacher if they could scan their notes for five minutes before the test.

scenic

adj
/ 'sēnik /

Gk

affording or abounding in attractive scenery.

The Grand Canyon is one of America's greatest scenic attractions.

scrim

n
/ 'skrim /

unknown

a transparent theater drop or a transparent section in a drop that appears opaque when a scene in front is lighted and transparent when a scene in back is lighted.

The play's dream sequence was performed behind a scrim to give the illusion of unreality.

scent

v
/ 'sent /
L > F > E

[has homonyms: cent, sent] use the olfactory organ in seeking or tracking prey.

A hound will jump at the opportunity to scent squirrels and rabbits.

scorching

adj
/ 'skɔ(ə)rchiŋ /
Scand > E

burning or parching with intense heat.

With the temperature a scorching 98 degrees, it was simply too hot to play outdoors.

scut

n

/ 'skət /

unknown

the short erect tail of an animal and especially a hare or rabbit.

Haley found a rabbit's scut on the barbed wire fence.

seaboot

n

/ 'sē.biüt /

E + E

a very high waterproof boot used especially by sailors and fishermen.

The sailor had no sooner taken off one seaboot than he was again summoned to the deck.

seaborne

adj

/ 'sē.bō(ə)r /

E

transported by ship.

China agreed to take measures to prevent seaborne wood from introducing the pesky wood-eating beetle to the United States.

seapoose

n

/ 'sē.piüs /

Algonquian > E

a shallow inlet or tidal stream along the Long Island shore.

Dirk floated a toy boat in the seapoose.

secure

v

/ sē'kyü(ə)r /

L

seize and confine a person : hold fast.

The prison rules stated that the guards were to secure all remaining prisoners in the event of an escape.

semipermeable

adj

/ .semē'pərmēəbəl /

L + L

of or constituting a membrane that is penetrable by some usually small molecules (as of water or inorganic salts) but bars the passage of other usually larger particles (as protein molecules).

Usually the size of a molecule determines whether it will pass through a semipermeable membrane, but other factors are not well understood.

semiquaver

n

/ 'semē.kwāvə(r) /

L + E

a sixteenth note in music.

The composer believed that every semiquaver of her new symphony was perfect.

sentimentalizing

v

/ .sentə'mentəl.īziŋ /

L + Eeff

looking upon and imbuing with emotion.

Daren made the mistake of sentimentalizing the politician as a poor abused fellow.

septendecimal

adj

/ ,sep.ten'desəməl /

L

relating to the number 17 : based on the number 17.

Rob mistakenly thought that once he had lived beyond his septendecimal year he could do as he pleased in his parents' house.

septicization

n

/ ,septəsə'zāshən /

Gk > L + Ecff

treatment of sewage by bacterial action.

Engineers found a way to utilize the gases produced by the septicization of sewage.

septuplets

n pl

/ sep'təpləts /

L

a group of seven offspring born at one birth.

In November 1997 many people in the United States became fascinated with the birth of septuplets to a family in Iowa.

sermon

n

/ 'sərmən /

L

a religious discourse delivered in public usually by a clergyman as a part of a worship service.

John found the minister's sermon unusually long and tedious but struggled to keep his mind on it.

shawl

n

/ 'shōl /

Per

a usually square or oblong piece of fabric used especially as a covering for the head or shoulders.

Alexandra threw a shawl over her head and ran down the path to the windmill.

sheaf

n

/ 'shēf /

E

[Note: Could be confused with chief, sheave.] a quantity of arrows sufficient to fill a quiver; also : the allowance of arrows (as 24) allotted to each archer.

As a walk-on in the recently released movie, Jason handed Robin Hood a sheaf of arrows for his quiver.

sheepskin

n

/ 'shēp.skɪn /

E + ON > E

a document bearing record of graduation from or of a degree conferred by an educational institution.

Jesse was so proud of her sheepskin that she framed it and hung it in her den.

shimmered

v
/ 'shimə(r)d /
E

shone with a tremulous or fitful light : gleamed faintly.

As the patterns of moonlight shifted, the frost-covered blades of grass shimmered.

shimmy

n
/ 'shimē /
F > E

a jazz dance popular after World War I which is characterized by a shaking of the body from the shoulders down.

The shimmy enjoyed a brief popularity among the flappers of the 1920s.

shiner

n
/ 'shīnə(r) /
E

black eye.

Sporting a shiner, Clint said, "You should see what the other guy looks like."

shingler**shingles**

n pl
/ 'shɪŋgəlz /
L > E

an acute inflammation of the sensory ganglia of spinal and cranial nerves that is associated with a vesicular eruption and neuralgic pains.

Shingles kept Kyle out of school for two weeks.

shock

n
/ 'shäk /
Gmc > F

a state of profound depression of the vital processes of the body characterized by pallor, rapid but weak pulse, anxiety, and nausea or vomiting.

Severe injuries in an automobile accident could cause a person to go into shock.

shone

v
/ 'shōn /
E

[has homonym: shown] emitted rays of light : beamed with steady radiance.

Shutters closed for many years were thrown open to let the brilliant sunlight shine where it hadn't shone in so long.

shoplifting

n
/ 'shäp.liftɪŋ /
E + ON > E

the stealing of goods on display in a store.

Shoplifting becomes a serious problem for merchants especially around Christmas time.

shortcake

n
/ 'shört.kāk /
E + ON > E

a sweet baked dough spread with fruit and served cold.

Strawberry shortcake is a delicious summer treat.

shortening

n
/ 'shört*niŋ /
E

an edible fat used to make baked goods flaky or crumbly.

A good pie crust can be made with half a cup of shortening.

shorthanded

adj
/ 'shó(ə)rt.handəd /
E + E

short of the regular or necessary number of people.

Because the boys felt they had an advantage over their smaller opponents, they agreed to play basketball shorthanded.

showstopper

n
/ 'shō.stäpə(r) /
E + E

an act, song, or performer that wins applause so prolonged as to interrupt a performance.

The song "Memory" proved to be the showstopper in the musical Cats.

shrine

n
/ 'shrīn /
L > E

an object, structure, or place that is considered sacred by a religious group and that serves as the focus of the performance of some ritual.

The Western Wall in Jerusalem is a Jewish shrine that receives millions of visitors annually.

shuffle

v
/ 'shəfəl /
E

perform a dance with a dragging, sliding step.

As the dance marathon wore on, the tired participants began to shuffle from side to side.

sickish

adj
/ 'sɪkɪʃ /

E
making somewhat ill.
A sickish odor filled the hospital room.

siesta

n
/ sɪ'ɛstə /

L > Sp
an afternoon nap or rest.
Some Latin American countries have extra periods of rush hour traffic as people go home for their siesta.

Sikkimese

n pl
/ .sɪkə'mɛz /

Indian geog name
natives or inhabitants of the state of Sikkim in northeastern India.
Many Sikkimese believe that certain mountains are protective deities.

silane

n
/ 'sɪ.lən /

ISV
any of several silicon hydrides having the general formula analogous to that of hydrocarbons of the methane series.
When exposed to air, some types of silane will ignite spontaneously.

simmer

v
/ 'sɪmə(r) /

imit E
stew gently with a bubbling sound below or just at the boiling point.
The chef explained that the carrots should simmer in the broth for several minutes before the other vegetables were added.

single

n
/ 'sɪŋɡəl /

L > F > E
a one-dollar bill.
Maria searched her wallet for a single to give the cloak room attendant as a tip.

singleton

n
/ 'sɪŋɡəltən /

L > F > E
a card (as in bridge) that is the only one of its suit originally held in a hand.
Daphne could see that she would have a difficult time winning the hand, since she held only a singleton of the trump suit.

sinology

n
/ sɪ'nɒləʒjē /
Chinese? > Ar > Gk > L > F + Gk > Ecf

[has homonym: cynology] the study of the Chinese especially with reference to their language, literature, history, and culture.
Kim's graduate work in sinology led her to spend a semester at Heidelberg University's Institute of Chinese Studies.

sinus

n
/ 'sɪnəs /

L
a cavity in the substance of the bone of the skull that usually communicates with the nostrils and contains air.
Since Pauline has no frontal sinus, she never gets bad sinus headaches.

skate

n
/ 'skāt /

Gmc > F > D
a shoe with a metal runner or a set of wheels fastened to the sole.
After a few laps around the rink, Jeff had to tighten up his skate.

skim

v
/ 'skim /
E

read, study, deal with, or examine superficially and rapidly;
specifically : glance through (as a book) for the chief ideas or the plot.
Haley often goes to the bookshop on Saturday mornings to skim the current best sellers.

skimmer

n
/ 'skimə(r) /
E

a usually straw flat-crowned hat with a wide straight brim.
Dad had a photo of Grandpa at the train station waving good-by with his skimmer.

skinny

adj
/ 'skinē /
E

thin and lacking flesh (as from emaciation).
Barbara described Frank as "a skinny little guy with a great sense of humor."

skullcap

n
/ 'skəl.kap /
Scand > E + L > F > E
any of various close-fitting brimless cloth caps for indoor or outdoor wear.
In a corner of the restaurant sat a solitary bearded man wearing a black skullcap and reading a newspaper.

skunk

n
/ 'skʌŋk /
Algonquian

any of various common New World mammals which eject an intensely malodorous secretion when startled or attacked.
Luckily the skunk has warning coloration and is easy to recognize.

skunkweed

n
/ 'skʌŋk.wēd /
Algonquian + E
any of several offensive-smelling herbs.
The skunkweed poked its nose through the surface of the swamp.

skyjacking

n
/ 'skī.jakɪŋ /
N > E + unknown
the commandeering of an airplane in flight by the threat of violence.
By skyjacking a passenger plane, the terrorists intended to force the authorities to release their imprisoned leader.

slander

n
/ 'slændə(r) /
L > F > E
utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage reputation.
After the heated debate, one candidate threatened to sue the other for slander because of his defamatory remarks.

slate

adj
/ 'slæt /
F > E
of the color of any of various grays similar in color to common roofing slates.
The contractor recommends black shutters and slate shingles for the house Karen's family is building.

slipper

n
/ 'slipə(r) /
E
a light low-cut shoe that is easily slipped on the foot.
Fred's puppy came running into the room shaking a slipper in his mouth.

smallish

adj
/ 'smɒlɪʃ /
E
slightly below normal size.
Mr. Sidgwick bought a smallish turkey for Thanksgiving.

smallpox

n
/ 'smɒl.pəks /
E

an acute contagious virus disease characterized by high fever and skin eruptions which often result in scar formation.

A vaccine is available that will prevent a person from contracting smallpox.

smattering

n
/ 'smədə(r)ɪŋ /
imit? > E

an inconsiderable number or amount especially of similar but distinct individuals or parts : piecemeal collection.

After only a smattering of museum goers showed interest in the exhibit, it was replaced earlier than originally planned.

smuggler

n
/ 'sməg(ə)lə(r) /
G&D

one who imports or exports anything in violation of the customs laws.

The smuggler was arrested at the airport when cocaine was found in his luggage.

snare

n
/ 'sna(a)ə(r) /
ON > E

something by which one is entangled or involved in difficulties; often : something deceptively attractive.

Danny has learned the hard way that a smile on the face of a dishonest salesperson can be a snare.

sneaker

n
/ 'snēkə(r) /
E

a shoe usually of canvas with a pliable rubber sole worn especially for sports or hiking.

Chip complained that his mom had bought him the wrong kind of sneaker for basketball.

sneer

n
/ 'sni(ə)r /
G?

an expression, remark, or saying that manifests derision, disdain, or contempt.

Roberto's sneer hurt Rachel's feelings.

sniff

v
/ 'snif /
E

draw air audibly up the nose.

Klaus is wont to sniff at whatever he does not like.

snifter

n
/ 'sniftə(r) /
E

a large short-stemmed goblet with a bowl narrowing toward the top in which the aroma of brandy can be savored before drinking.

Heather poured a bit of calvados into a snifter.

snitch

n
/ 'snɪtʃ /
unknown

one who gives incriminating evidence against someone, especially an associate.

A snitch tipped the police as to where they could find the robbery suspect.

snivel

v
/ 'snɪvəl /
E

speak or act in a whining, sniffing, tearful, or weakly emotional manner.

Uncle Ron sternly told Susie not to snivel when she asked for something.

snooker

n
/ 'snʊkər /
unknown

pool played with 15 red balls having a value of 1 each and 6 variously colored balls having values of from 2 to 7 respectively on which the striker may play only after pocketing a red ball.

Morris learned to play snooker during his junior year abroad at a British university.

snout

n
/ 'snaʊt /
E

the human nose especially when large or grotesque.

Her scarlet eyes stared over her gruesomely fattened snout.

skim

v
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E

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adj
/ 'smɔlɪʃ /
E
slightly below normal size.
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soulless

adj

/'sɔɪləs /

E + Ecf

having no manifestation of a spiritual or moral nature.

After several years in a city they found soulless, Arthur and Sylvia bought a dairy farm in Vermont.

spasmodically

adv

/ spaz'mädák(ə)lē /

Gk

in a sudden violent and temporary manner.

Tupper spasmodically jerked his leg away from the blow.

spirited

adj

/'spɪrədəd /

L

full of life or vigor.

The spirited debater delivered a persuasive speech.

spoor

n

/'spu(ə)r /

D > Afrikaans

a mark, a trail, a scent, a sound, or droppings left by one that has passed.

Moxie found the spoor of a cat in the garden.

speakerphone

n

/'spēkə(r).fōn /

E + Gk

a combination microphone and loudspeaker device for two-way communication by telephone lines.

Ruby turned on the speakerphone so he could tend to the stove and continue talking.

speedball

n

/'spēd.bɔl /

E + ON > E

a game resembling soccer but permitting a ball caught in the air to be passed with the hands.

The fourth grade played speedball at recess.

spicier

adj

/'spɪʃēər /

L > F > E

having more of a fragrance suggestive of spices.

The new potpourri was much spicier than the old one.

sprain

v
/ 'sprān /
unknown

weaken by sudden and violent twisting or wrenching.

Unaccustomed to wearing high heels, Sarah might sprain her ankle if she tried to run in them.

squandering

v
/ 'skwānd(ə)rɪŋ /
unknown

spending extravagantly or wastefully.

The wealthy heir was criticized for squandering his inheritance at the gambling casinos.

square

n
/ 'skwa(a)(ə)r /
L > F > E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a builder's unit of floor or roof area equal to 100 square feet.

The contractor told the Driscolls that they would need a square of roofing material to finish the job.

stakeout

n
/ 'stāk.aʊt /
E + E

a surveillance maintained by one or more police officers over an area or person suspected of criminal activity.

Police set up a stakeout at the intersection where drug dealers were said to be doing business.

stamen

n
/ 'stāmən /
L

[has near homonym: stamin] the male reproductive organ of a flower.

When the honeybee touched the stamen, pollen stuck to its legs.

standard

n
/ 'stændə(r)d /
F > E

a pole or spear bearing some conspicuous object (as a banner) at the top formerly used to mark a rallying point, to signal, or to serve as an emblem.

Before Caesar entered the room, a messenger entered bearing his standard.

standing

n
/ 'stændɪŋ /
E

position or condition in society or in a profession.

Rumors about the mayor's expense account have certainly hurt his standing in the community.

staple

n
/ 'stāpəl /
E

a small U-shaped wire both ends of which are driven through layers of thin and easily penetrable material (as paper or paperboard) and usually clinched to hold the layers together.

Leigh wanted to make a photocopy of the document, but first she had to remove the staple.

stapp

n
/ 'stap /
Am name

a unit of force caused by acceleration and equal to 1 G acting on a body for 1 second.

Astronauts commonly use the stapp when referring to the G-forces endured at takeoff.

station

n
/ 'stāshən /

L
the place or position in which something or someone stands or is assigned to stand or remain; as : a post of duty.

Just before the mock fire drill each member of the observation team took his station.

status

n
/ 'stādəs /

L
position or rank in relation to others.

Fernando's status in the company changed dramatically after he completed his degree.

steadfastly

adv
/ 'sted.fastlē /

E
in a firmly established manner.
The castle steadfastly weathered the storms through the ages.

steam

v
/ 'stēm /

E
cook by direct exposure to or in a vessel surrounded by the vapor of liquid heated to the boiling point.
Some cooks like to steam vegetables in broth rather than in water for added flavor.

steel

n
/ 'stēl /

E
[has homonyms: steal, stele]
commercial iron that contains carbon in any amount up to about 1.7 percent.
Changing the carbon content of steel greatly affects its malleability.

steeplejack

n
/ 'stēpəl.jak /

E
one whose work is building or repairing smokestacks, towers, or steeples.
The steeplejack found a stalk of corn growing atop the belfry.

stere

n
/ 'sti(ə)r /
Gk > F

[has homonym: steer] a metric unit of volume equal to 1 cubic meter.
The stere is the metric counterpart of the cord, which is 128 cubic feet of stacked wood.

stereognosis

n
/ .sterēäg'nōsəs /
Gk + Gk

ability to perceive or the perception of material qualities (as form, weight) of an object by handling or lifting it : tactile recognition.
To test his stereognosis after his head injury, Barry was blindfolded and handed different shapes to fit into a form board.

sterling

adj
/ 'stərliŋ /

E
of full value or first quality : conforming to the highest standard : genuine.
The recipient of the Citizen of the Year award was cited for her sterling character and matchless energy.

sternutator

n
/ 'stərnyə.tādər /

L
an agent that induces a flow of nasal secretion or causes sneezing.
A gaseous sternutator was used against soldiers in World War I.

stew

v
/ 'st(y)ü /
Gk > L > F > E

cook in a little liquid over a gentle fire without boiling.
It is sometimes advisable to stew an older chicken rather than roast it.

sthene

n
/ 'sthēn /
Gk > ISV

a meter-kilogram-second absolute unit of force equal to 1,000 newtons or 100 million dynes.
Part of Nick's physics homework consisted of converting measurements from the newton to the sthene to the dyne.

stichomythia

n
/ .stikə'mithēə /
Gk

dialogue especially of altercation or dispute delivered in alternating lines (as in classical Greek drama).
The argument continued in stichomythia until the characters realized the futility of such bickering.

sticky

adj
/ 'stikē /

E
having the quality of adhering.
The sticky gum would not come off of Ann's finger.

stilb

n
/ 'stilb /
Gk > ISV

a centimeter-gram-second unit of brightness equal to 1 candle per square centimeter of cross section perpendicular to the rays.
The luminous paint on a watch dial usually registers only a tiny fraction of a stilb.

stilt

n
/ 'stilt /

E
one of two poles each with a rest or strap for the foot used to elevate the wearer above the ground in walking.
Waldo had to add the length of the stilt to his leg length to get the proper trouser measurement for his clown costume.

stinkstone

n
/ 'stɪŋk.stōn /

E
a stone that emits a fetid smell on being struck or rubbed owing to decomposition of organic matter.
Stinkstone, a variety of limestone, is also called swinestone.

stipulate

v
/ 'stɪp.jə.lāɪ /

L
make an express demand for some term in an agreement.
Many corporations who allow employees to telecommute also stipulate the working hours and equipment to be used.

stitch

v
/ 'stɪtʃ /

E
fasten, join, or close with or as if with loops of thread.
The brain surgeon was justly famous for the speed and skill with which she could stitch.

stone

n
/ 'stōn /

E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] an official British unit of weight equal to 14 pounds.
Elizabeth's New Year's resolution is to lose 1 stone before the arrival of summer.

stool

n
/ 'stūl /

E
a device for sitting usually consisting of a single wooden or upholstered seat without back or arms supported by three or four legs or by a central pedestal.
The actor playing the court jester sat on a low stool near the king's throne.

stout

adj
/ 'staʊt /
Gmc > F > E

characterized by physical or moral bravery : courageous, valiant.
The scoutmaster praised Jim, referring to him as "a brave lad with a stout heart."

stoutly**stovepipe**

n
/ 'stōv.pɪp /
G > D > E + E

a very tall silk hat.
In honor of Lincoln's birthday, David, wearing a frock coat, stovepipe, and false beard, recited the "Gettysburg Address" for the class.

strawberry

n
/ 'strō.berē /

E
[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a small mark or bruise that is of a moderate red or purplish red color.
The strawberry on Martha's thigh is a birthmark.

stretchable

adj
/ 'stretʃəbəl /

E
capable of being extended.
The kitten tugged at Alvin's stretchable sock.

strong

adj
/ 'strɒŋ /

E
having great muscular power.
Johnny is as strong as a bull.

stronghold

n
/ 'strɒŋ.həʊld /

E
a fortified place.
As the marching soldiers crested the hill, the duke's stronghold came into view.

strophic

adj
/ 'strɒfɪk /

Gk
relating to, containing, or consisting of a rhythmic system composed of two or more lines repeated as a unit.
The strophic pattern of the poem helped Miriam memorize it.

study

v
/ 'stʌdē /

L
apply the mind to the acquirement of knowledge.
Flora helped her roommate to study for her exam.

stuff

v
/ 'stʌf /
F > E

prepare (meat or vegetables) for cooking or eating by filling or lining with a seasoned mixture.
Bella plans to stuff the turkey with a mixture of cornbread, sausage, and onions.

stuffy

adj
/ 'stʌfē /
F > E

oppressive to the breathing.
The air in the tunnel leading into the pyramid was stuffy.

stupor

n
/ 'st(y)üpə(r) /

L
a chiefly mental condition marked by absence of spontaneous movement, greatly diminished responsiveness to stimulation, and usually impaired consciousness.
After staying up all night to study, Ellen ended up taking her exam in a stupor.

subdued

adj
/ səb'd(y)üd /

L
reduced or lacking in force or intensity.
The subdued dog could become ferocious when threatened.

subjacent

adj
/ ,səb'jāsənt /

L
lying under or below.
The hills and subjacent valleys were cloaked in the heavy, wet snow.

sublunary

adj
/ 'səblü.nerē /

L
characteristic of or pertinent to this world : terrestrial, mundane.
One suffragette declared that men had undertaken the "absolute control of all sublunary matters."

subshell

n
/ 'səb.ʃel /
L > E + E

any of the one or more spaces occupied by the orbits of a group of electrons of approximately equal energy surrounding the nucleus of an atom.

Fred explained that most elements have more than one subshell of electrons.

subtrahend

n
/ 'səbtrə.hend /
L

a quantity that is to be deducted from a minuend in the mathematical operation of subtraction.

In the equation $14 - 8 = 6$, 8 is the subtrahend.

suburban

adj
/ sə'bərbən /
L

of, relating to, inhabiting, or located in the residential area on the outskirts of any city or large town.

The farm on which George spent his childhood years has been swallowed up in suburban sprawl.

sucrose

n
/ 'sü.krōs /
F > ISV + L > Ecf

a sweet water-soluble sugar that occurs naturally in most land plants especially in the juices, fruits, and roots.

Sucrose was the last in a long list of organic substances whose chemical formulas Callie had to memorize that night.

summons

n pl
/ 'səmənz /
F > E

a warning or citation to appear in court.

As an eyewitness to the robbery, Alicia received a summons to give testimony in court.

sumo

n
/ 'sü(.)mō /
Jpn

a Japanese form of wrestling in which a contestant loses the match if he is forced out of the ring or if any part of his body except his feet touches the ground.

As part of their study of Japanese culture, the class watched an hour of sumo on ESPN.

sunbonnet

n
/ 'sən.bənət /
E + L > F > E

a woman's bonnet with a wide brim framing the face and usually having a ruffle at the back to protect the neck from the sun.

Meghan was so fair-skinned that she never left the house without a sunbonnet.

sundown

n
/ 'sən.daʊn /
E + E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a broad-brimmed hat for women.

Diane put on a straw sundown and took a stroll on the gorgeous beach.

sunflower

adj
/ 'sən.fləʊ(ə)r /
E + L > F > E

of or resembling any of various plants with large yellow-rayed flower heads bearing edible seeds that yield an edible oil.

The brown iris was slashed with yellow, the color of sunflower honey.

sunny

adj
/ 'sənē /
E

[has homonym: sonny] characterized by brilliant sunlight.

Mo added a sunny porch to the back of her house.

sunstroke

n
/ 'sən.strōk /
E

heatstroke caused by direct exposure to the Sun.

Sharon suffered a sunstroke when she ran the marathon in mid-August.

superabundant

adj
/ ,süpə(r)ə'bændənt /
L

being considerably more than is sufficient.

The cheerleader's superabundant zeal was a little sickening to Carla.

supercool

v
/ 'süpə.kül /
L + F

reduce in temperature to below the freezing point without solidification or crystallization.

Tage had to first supercool the liquid and then be careful not to stir it; otherwise, it would quickly solidify.

superencipherment

n
/ .süpə(r)ən'sifə(r)mənt /
L + L + Ar > L > F + Ecf

converting into code what already is a cryptogram especially in code.
Jason is an ace code breaker and has recently become interested in superencipherment.

superimposable

adj
/ .süpə'rəm'pözəbəl /
L

capable of covering or of being covered.

If a superimposable ion or molecule is placed over the other, the positions of all the atoms will match.

superrational

adj
/ .süpə(r)'rashən¹ /
L

transcending the power of reason.
Many novelists address the superrational aspects of love in their works.

supplant

v
/ sə'plant /
L > F > E

take the place of : oust from a position and serve as a substitute for especially by reason of superior excellence or power.

Harry's goal is to supplant the current floor supervisor.

surcharge

n
/ 'sər.chärj /
F > E

a price demanded for a thing or service in excess of the usual or normal amount.

The overnight delivery service has a steep surcharge for weekend delivery.

surmountable

adj
/ .sər'maüntəbəl /
F > E + Ecf

capable of being overcome.

Quentin is confident that most of the problems associated with his learning disability are surmountable.

I**suspend**

v
/ sə'spend /
L

hang so as to be free on all sides except at the point of support.

Tony will suspend a tennis ball from the garage ceiling to help him know how far he can drive into the garage.

suspended

adj
/ sə'spendəd /
L

withheld for a time under specified conditions.

Because this offense was his first, Mike was given a suspended sentence instead of a jail term.

suspenders

n pl
/ sə'spendə(r)z /
L > F > E + Ecf

two supporting bands of elastic, leather, or cloth worn across the shoulders and fastened at the waistline to trousers or a skirt.

They had worn their coats to town, but they ate in their striped shirts and suspenders.

swarm

n
/ 'swò(ə)rm /
E

a great often overwhelming number usually in motion and especially migratory : a dense moving crowd or throng.

A swarm of preteen girls and their parents headed for the entrance doors of the concert hall.

swedes

n pl
/ 'swēdz /
D > G

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.]

rutabagas.

The farmer's shed was filled with baskets of potatoes, swedes, and turnips.

sweet

adj
/ 'swēt /
E

pleasing to the smell : fragrant.

Kara's mother loves the sweet smell of gardenia blossoms.

swing

n
/ 'swɪŋ /
E

jazz dancing in moderate tempo with a peculiar lilting syncopation.
Martin urged Rhonda to learn the swing with him.

switchback

n
/ 'swɪtʃ.bæk /
D? + E

a zigzag road or trail in a mountainous region.
The switchback was so steep that Amber had to back her truck up the next leg rather than turn around and go forward.

synchronization

n
/ .sɪŋkrənə'zæʃən /
Gk + Gk + Ecff

the act or result of making dialogue, music, or sound effects exactly simultaneous with the action shown in a motion picture.
The synchronization in early foreign movies was sometimes ludicrous, with mouths moving when no speech was heard.

tacitly

adv
/ 'tæsɪtl̩ /
L + Ecf

in a manner that is implied or indicated but not actually expressed.
The school administration does not enforce the dress code, perhaps tacitly acknowledging that it needs to be changed.

tack

v
/ 'tæk /
E

nail, pin, or affix with small sharp-pointed, broad-headed nails.
The landlady told Tristan that although hanging large pictures was not permissible, he could tack a calendar to the wall.

tact

n
/ 'tækt /
L

[has homonym: tacked] a keen sense of what to do or say in a difficult or delicate situation in order to maintain good relations with others or avoid offense : diplomacy.
Tact is an inestimable quality in an administrative assistant.

Talmud

n
/ 'tæl.məd /
Heb

the authoritative body of Jewish law and tradition developed on the basis of the scriptural law after the closing of the Pentateuchal text about 400 B.C.
Benjamin studied Torah and Talmud at the yeshiva.

Taoism

n
/ 'taü.izəm /
Chin + Ecf

a religion and philosophy of China traditionally founded by Lao-tzu in the sixth century B.C.

Many of the 20 million adherents of Taoism practice tai chi and Chinese herbal medicine.

taphonomy

n
/ ta'fänəmē /
Gk

the study of the processes (as burial, decay, and preservation) that affect animal and plant remains as they become fossils.

The archaeology department frequently calls upon a consultant whose expertise is in taphonomy.

tasteless

adj
/ 'tāstlās /
E + Ecf

having no flavor.

Giorgio, the son of a jeweler, was amused to hear his chemistry professor describe diamonds as tasteless.

taxonomy

n
/ tak'sänəmē /
Gk + Gk

the study of the general principles of scientific classification.

No one was surprised when the course in taxonomy began with a discussion of Swedish botanist Carl von Linné and his method of binomial nomenclature.

team

n
/ 'tēm /
E

[has homonym: teem] two or more horses, oxen, or other draft animals harnessed to the same vehicle (as a coach, wagon, sled) or to the same plow or other implement.

A team of mules pulled a wagon along the street of the recreated gold-mining town.

tearjerker

n
/ 'ti(ə)r.jərkə(r) /
E + E

an extravagantly pathetic story, play, film, or radio or television program.

The movie turned out to be a two-hankie tearjerker.

teaspoon

n
/ 'tē.spün /
Chin + E

a small commonly silver spoon suitable for stirring and sipping tea or coffee and having a standard capacity of 1/3 tablespoon.

William realized that he had used a tablespoon of yeast instead of a teaspoon, which led to the overflow of bread dough from the oven.

tectonosphere

n
/ tek'tänə.sfi(ə)r /
Gk + Gk

the zone within Earth in which crustal movements originate.

The geologist specialized in the study of the evolution and structure of Earth's tectonosphere.

temple

n
/ 'tempəl /
L

an edifice dedicated to the worship of a deity.

The Johnsons admired the stately architecture of the Mormon temple on their trip to Salt Lake City.

tempo

n
/ 'tem(ɪ)pō /
L > It

rate of motion.

The frenzied dance slowed to a gentle, lyrical tempo.

tenpins

n pl
/ 'ten.pɪnz /
E + E

a bowling game using ten bottle-shaped bowling pins and a large ball and allowing each player to bowl two balls in each of ten frames.

Rip van Winkle played tenpins with the strange little men.

tenseness

n
/ 'ten(t)snəs /
L + Ecf

the quality or state of being stretched tight.

As the starting time for the race got closer, Brian's tenseness increased.

termolecular

adj
/ 'tərmə.lekyələr /
L + L

relating to or formed from three molecules.

Because a termolecular reaction is the result of the simultaneous encounter of three molecules, very few termolecular reactions occur.

terran

n
/ 'terən /
L

Earth inhabitant.

"The terran departed Hartux Station three hours ago at warp speed," said Glarg.

tetrachloride

n
/ 'tetrə.klōrɪd /
Gk

a compound containing four atoms of chlorine with another element or radical.

Carbon tetrachloride is a useful organic solvent.

tetradactyl**tetrahedral**

adj
/ 'tetrə.hēdrəl /
Gk

having or made up of four sides.

Sid remembered that a tetrahedral molecule is made up of five atoms with one at the center and the other four at each corner.

tetralemma

n
/ ,tetrə'lemə /
Gk

an argument analogous to a dilemma but presenting four alternatives in the premises.

When Rachel received four equally attractive invitations to the prom, she decided to draw straws to solve the tetralemma.

theatricality

n
/ thē.ətrə'kalədə /
Gk + Ecff

the quality or state of having the characteristics of a stage play or an actor's performance.

The exaggerated gestures and movements are part of the actor's theatricality.

theophobia

n
/ .thē(.)ō'fōbēə /
Gk + Gk

dread of the wrath of God.

In his theophobia, Brennan was sure that the thunderstorm was directed specifically at him.

thermochemical

adj
/ .thərmō'keməkəl /
Gk

of, relating to, or obtained by the branch of chemistry that deals with the relations existing between heat and chemical reaction or physical changes of state.

George's comparison of thermochemical changes in several reactions revealed a striking variation in enthalpy.

thermohydrometer

n
/ .thə(r)ˌmōhɪ'dræmədət(r) /
Gk

an instrument for measuring the specific gravity of a liquid containing an instrument for measuring the temperature of the liquid under test.

Stan took readings from the thermohydrometer every five minutes throughout the experiment.

thermopile

n
/ 'thərməpɪl /
Gk + L > F > E

a thermoelectric battery.

The thermopile is used in connection with a galvanometer for measuring minute quantities of radiant heat.

thermoset

adj
/ 'thərməsət /
Gk + E

relatively incapable of softening or fusing when heated.

Thermoset plastics are sometimes used in manufacturing industrial molds.

theurgy

n
/ 'thē(.)əɹjē /
Gk

the art of compelling or persuading a god or beneficent supernatural power to do or refrain from doing something: specifically : an occult art in which the operator is held to be capable of evoking or utilizing the aid of divine and beneficent spirits.

Theurgy is sometimes called "high magic," and thaumaturgy, the use of magic for nonreligious purposes, is called "low magic."

thiazide**thirdborough**

n
/ 'thərd.bər(,)ō /
E

a former English peace officer especially of a tithing.

Old Mr. Hawkins has been the thirdborough of Warwickshire for the last two years.

thong

n
/ 'thɒŋ /
E

a sandal held on the foot by a strap between the toes.

As Sarah walked down the marble hallway, her every step was sounded by a slapping thong.

thorny

adj
/ 'θɔrnē /
E

beset with trials, vexations, obstacles, or other difficulties.

Grading papers is often a thorny problem for teachers.

thrasonical

adj
/ thrā'sänəkəl /
Roman name

bragging, boastful.

Cleo's father asked her not to be thrasonical about her birthday presents in front of her brother.

thrilled

v
/ 'θrɪld /
E

caused to have a shivering or tingling sensation : affected emotionally.

Jeff was so thrilled by the new Star Wars movie that he got back in line to see it again.

thrips

n pl
/ 'θrɪps /
Gk > L

any of some 5,000 species of tiny winged insects of the order Thysanoptera.

To survive the cold winters, thrips hibernate in hollow plant stems on the ground.

thrust

v
/ 'θrɒst /
ON > E

push or drive with physical force.
To open the can, Elmer had to thrust a screwdriver through the lid.

Thursday

n
/ 'θɜrzd(,)dā /
ON > E

the day following Wednesday.
Pizza is served every Thursday in the school cafeteria.

tierce

n
/ 'tɪ(ə)rs /
L > F > E

a sequence of three playing cards of the same suit.

Roland's tierce led with the ace of hearts and beat Paul's king, queen, and jack of clubs handily.

tiki

n
/ 'tɪkɪ /

Maori&Marquesan
a Polynesian wood or stone image set up as a temporary abode or embodiment of a god or other supernatural power but not worshipped as an idol.

The tiki at the entrance to the Polynesian restaurant is genuine.

timely

adj
/ 'tɪmlɪ /

E
done or occurring at a suitable time.

A timely downpour quenched the fire.

tiptoeed

v
/ 'tɪp.tōd /
E + E

walked or proceeded quietly or cautiously walking on or as if walking on the tips or ends of the toes.

The toddler tiptoed slowly toward his parents with his arms outstretched.

tiring

v
/ 'tɪ(ə)rɪŋ /
E

fatiguing, wearying.

Bridget found her job tiring and boring.

tithe

v
/ 'tɪθ /
E

pay or give a tenth part of especially for the support of the church.

The pastor used this Sunday's sermon time to encourage members of the congregation to tithe.

titration

n
/ tɪ'træʃən /
F > E

a determination of the reactive capacity usually of a solution; especially : the analytical process of successively adding measured amounts of a reagent to a known volume of a sample in solution until a desired end point is reached.

Mark prepared to do a titration by transferring 40 milliliters of sodium hydroxide into a flask.

tonometer

n
/ tɒ'nɒmədə(r) /

Gk

an instrument for measuring the exact pitch or vibration rate of tones.

In 1833, Scheibler put tonometry on a scientific basis with his tonometer.

touchdown

n
/ 'təʃ.daʊn /

L > F > E + E

the act of scoring six points in a football game by being lawfully in possession of the ball on, above, or behind an opponent's goal line when the ball is declared dead.

Barnaby intercepted the ball and ran 89 yards to score the most memorable touchdown in his school's history.

touchline

n
/ 'təʃ.lɪn /

L > F > E + E & (L > F)

either of the lines between and at right angles to the goal lines that bound the sides of the field of play in rugby and soccer.

The referee ruled that Colin's foot had come down on the wrong side of the touchline.

tournament

n
/ 'tʊrnəmənt /

F > E

a trial of skill in which many contestants compete for championship in a series of elimination contests.

Laszlo won first place in the state chess tournament.

town

n
/ 'taʊn /

E

a compactly settled area usually larger than a village but smaller than a city in population.

The town of Oliver Springs was worst hit by the storm.

trans

adj
/ 'tranz(t)s /

L

[has homonym: trance] having or characterized by various atoms or groups on opposite sides of the molecule.

Heat or irradiation with light can often change a compound from a cis to a trans isomer, although it does not change the type or number of atoms in the compound.

transformation

n
/ ,tranzfə(r)'māʃən /

L > E

a physiological change of one thing into another (as larva into adult through metamorphosis).

During the pupal stage the larva of a butterfly undergoes a transformation in which the wings appear and adult structures are developed.

transgression

n
/ tran(t)s'grɛʃən /

L
the infringement or violation of a law, command, or duty.

The union leader claimed that the company was guilty of a transgression of the labor contract.

transported

adj
/ tranz'pɔːrdəd /

L
impassioned or enraptured by strong and usually pleasurable emotion.

As Tom listened to the chanting monks, he felt transported and otherworldly.

treeing

v
/ 'triːɪŋ /

E
driving to or up a tree.

Strange to say, Jacques and Philip had a hard time treeing that squirrel.

trencher

n
/ 'trɛnʃə(r) /
F > E

a platter or tray for serving food.
Ten minutes after entering the inn, the wayfarer was working his way through a trencher piled with food.

trichology

n
/ trə'kɪlədʒi /
Gk

the scientific study of hair.
Several experts in trichology manned booths at the cosmetology fair.

trickled

v
/ 'trɪkəld /

E
ran or fell in drops.
Water trickled out from the hole in the jug.

triclinic

adj
/ trɪ'klɪnɪk /
Gk

having or characterized by three unequal axes intersecting at oblique angles—used especially of a crystal.
Dusty reminded Sam that triclinic crystals have three unequal dimensions and three unequal angles, none of which is 90 degrees.

trilogy

n
/ 'trɪlədʒi /
Gk

a series of three dramas or sometimes three literary or musical compositions that although each is in one sense complete have a close mutual relation and form one theme or develop aspects of one basic concept.

The third novel in the trilogy was a sequel to the first, but the second was a prequel to it.

trio

n
/ 'triː(,)oʊ /
L > It > F

a group or set of three.
Ben belongs to a well-known trio of musicians that plays for wedding receptions.

tristful

adj
/ 'trɪstfəl /
L > E + E

sad, melancholy.

The tristful soldier longed for the day he could return home.

triton

n
/ 'trɪtɪn /
Gk name

one of a class of minor sea divinities or partly human monsters usually represented as having the upper body like that of a human and the lower body like that of a fish : merman.

Greek mythology has it that when the sea roars, a triton is blowing a conch shell trumpet.

Troadic

adj
/ trɔːdɪk /
Gk geog name

of or relating to ancient Troy.

Many remains of the Troadic culture have been excavated near the city of Hisarlik in Turkey.

tropical

adj
/ 'trɒpɪkəl /
L

of, relating to, occurring in, or used in the region lying between either of two parallels of Earth's latitude that are approximately 23½ degrees north of the equator and approximately 23½ degrees south of the equator.

Diana's cruise took her to several tropical islands.

troublemaker

n
/ 'trʌbəl.məˌkɜː(r) /
L > F > E + E

a person who foments strife and disagreement often for ulterior motives.

The teenaged troublemaker, having proved to be too difficult for his parents to handle, was sent to a reformatory as a last resort.

troublesome

adj
/ 'trʌbəl.səm /
L > F > E + E

disturbing, vexatious.

Gerald had a troublesome dream last night.

truffled

adj
/ 'trʌfəld /
L > OProv > F

cooked, stuffed, or garnished with edible fungi of the genus *Tuber*.

Emilia prepared a delicious truffled risotto with autumn vegetables.

truly

adv
/ 'truːli /
E

indeed.

Mary is truly the best leader the student government association has had in many years.

trump

v
/ 'trʌmp /
L > F > E

take a set of cards with a card of a suit designated by chance or by an auction or declaration that if legally played will win over a card that is not of this suit.

Sighing, Joe laid down his final card and waited for Janice to trump the trick with a heart.

trying

adj
/ 'trɪɪŋ /
F > AF > E

causing severe hardship, annoyance, or irritation.

The long and trying journey exhausted Deeka.

Tuesday

n
/ 't(y)üz(,)dā /
E

the day following Monday.

The English meaning of Mardi Gras is "Fat Tuesday."

turner

n
/ 'tɜːnər /
E

[has homonyms: ternar, terner] one that turns or is used for turning.

Matt grabbed a pancake turner and lit out after the cat.

turnout

n
/ 'tɜrn.aʊt /
E + E

[Note: The definition provided is not the one most commonly associated with this word.] a position of the feet in ballet with the heels back to back.
Kristin did many stretching exercises to improve her turnout.

turntable

n
/ 'tɜrn.tābəl /
E + L > F > E

a machine that reproduces speech or music from records.
The CD player has replaced the turntable in many homes.

turtle

n
/ 'tɜrdʒl /
imit > L > E

tortoise.
Jaime fed little bits of hamburger to his pet turtle.

tutu

n
/ 'tʊ.tʊ /
F

a very short projecting skirt worn by a ballet dancer.
In the football team's parody of Swan Lake, the quarterback wore a large white tutu.

twain

n
/ 'twān /
E

couple, pair.
The twain of volunteers who made the fund raiser a success are Mr. Burgess and Ms. Kent.

twice

adv
/ 'twɪs /
E

for a first and second time : on two occasions.
After Reginald wrecked the car twice, his parents took his driving privileges away for three months.

twin

adj
/ 'twɪn /
E

constituting two similar, closely associated, or otherwise paired persons, topics, or objects.
Ms. Venable purchased new mattresses for the twin beds in the guest room.

twirl

v
/ 'twɜrl /
Scand?

revolve rapidly.
Janet hoped Gregory wouldn't try to twirl her too fast around the dance floor.

two

adj
/ 'tu /
E

[has homonyms: to, too] being one more than one in number.
Betsy was more well behaved at two years than she was at three.

umpirage

n
/ 'ɒm.pɪrɪj /
L > F > E

an act or instance of deciding in the capacity of one having authority to arbitrate and make a final decision.
Daniel Webster declined the umpirage of any state that tried to settle the validity of laws of Congress.

unaccountable

adj
/ .ənə'kaʊntəbəl /
Ecf + F > E

not answerable or responsible : free from control.
The students were under the mistaken impression that they would be unaccountable for their actions at the football game.

unannotated

v
/ ʌn'ænə'tædʌd /
Ecf + L

not furnished with critical or explanatory notes.

The library's only copy of the poem was unannotated, so Ivan searched the Internet for expert literary criticism.

unappeasable

adj
/ 'ʌnəpēzəbəl /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecf

not capable of being brought to a state of ease or content.

The gladiators fought hour after hour before seemingly unappeasable spectators.

unbleached

adj
/ ʌn'blēcht /
E

not having the color or stains removed from.

Mr. Byng was dressed from head to toe in unbleached linen.

uncensored

adj
/ ʌn'sen(t)sə(r)d /
Ecf + L

not subjected to the system or practice of altering, deleting, or banning completely after examination.

Many parents want to protect their children from uncensored information on the Internet.

undercook

v
/ 'ʌndə(r)kʊk /
E + E

heat food insufficiently or less than thoroughly.

Care must be taken not to undercook poultry.

underneath

prep
/ ʌndə(r)'nēθ /
E

close under especially so as to be covered or hidden by.

Val found beetles, worms, and a cricket underneath the flagstone.

unenforceable

adj
/ ʌnən'fɔ(ə)rsəbəl /
Ecf + F + Ecf

not capable of causing to take effect.

Shasta believes that the state legislature's recent education bill is unenforceable.

unerringly

adv
/ ʌn'e(ə)riŋlē /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecff

in a faultless manner : with precision.

Almost everyone leaving the theater felt that the play had been unerringly performed

unfulfilled

adj
/ ʌnfʊl'fild /
Ecf + E

not satisfied.

The president promised to respond to the unfulfilled needs of the people.

unhappy

adj
/ ʌn'hapē /
E

dejected in spirit : melancholy, sad.

Being such an outgoing person, Joan is unhappy when she has no one to talk to.

unify

v
/ 'yünə.fi /
L

make into a coherent group or whole.

The coach worked hard to unify the players on the team.

unimpeachable

adj
/ ʌnəm'pēchəbəl /
Ecf + E + L > F > E + Ecf
exempt from liability to accusation : blameless.

An unimpeachable character is an asset almost every candidate strives to project.

unimpeded

adj
/ ʌnəm'pēdəd /
Ecf + L

free from anything that hampers.

Many services are provided onsite at the plant to ensure that worker productivity is unimpeded.

unity

n
/ 'yünədə /

L
the quality or state of being or consisting of one : oneness, singleness.

Seth quoted Benjamin Franklin's call for unity: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall hang separately."

univalent

adj
/ ,yünə'välənt /

L
capable usually of combining with only one atom of another element.

Mr. Greenwood said that the hydrogen atom is taken to be univalent.

unlaureled

adj
/ ,ən'lörəld /
Ecf + L > F > E + Ecf

having no acclaim or reward.

Philo T. Farnsworth, a pioneering researcher in television, went mainly unlaureled after selling the rights to his work.

unlawful

adj
/ ,ən'lɒfəl /

E
contrary to or prohibited by a binding custom or practice of a community.

Everyone hoped for the capture of those responsible for the hideous unlawful deed.

unnatural

adj
/ ,ən'nach(ə)rəl /
E + L

inconsistent with what is expected or in accordance with or determined by nature : strange.

Throughout the year, Ryan has dyed his hair all sorts of unnatural colors.

unreadable

adj
/ ,ən'rēdəbəl /
Ecf + E + Ecf

lacking attraction or interest as material for reading : alien or dull in vein or spirit.

Two years ago Joy found the novel unreadable, but now she cannot put it down.

unrelenting

adj
/ ,ənrə'lentiŋ /
E + L > E

not softening, yielding, or swerving in resolution or determination.

The chairman was a stern and unrelenting taskmaster.

unupholstered

adj
/ ,ənəp'hɒlztə(r)d /
E + E

not furnished with or as if with materials (as fabric, padding, and springs) used to make a soft covering especially for a seat.

The congregation discussed whether or not the unupholstered church pews should be provided with cushions.

unurbane

adj
/ ,ən.ər'bān /
E + L

not notably polite or finished in manner : rustic, vulgar.

Donald's unurbane table manners disgusted those sitting near him.

unutterable

adj
/ ,ən'ədərəbəl /
E + E + Ecf

not capable of being spoken.

After repeating the phrase toy boat five times in quick succession, Joel found the phrase unutterable.

uphill

adv
/ 'əp.hil /
E

against difficulties.

Shawna kept working her way uphill through school.

uplifted

adj

/ ˌʌpˈlɪftəd /

E + ON > E

raised in spirits.

*After a walk along the beach, Pat returned uplifted and refreshed.***uprighteous****uproar**

n

/ ˈʌp.rɪ(ə)r /

D > E

a loud usually disorderly noise of some duration.

*An uproar swept the auditorium when Wayne sank a three-pointer at the buzzer.***urgent**

adj

/ ˈɜːrjənt /

L

calling for or demanding immediate attention.

*“Let’s go back,” Calvin said in an urgent voice.***usurped**

v

/ yü'sɜːrpt /

L

seized and held in possession by force or without right.

*The senator claimed that the Supreme Court had usurped the powers of the legislatures.***vacantly**

adv

/ ˈvækəntli /

L

in a manner characterized by absence of thought and reflection : idly, inanely.

*Kevin was staring vacantly out the classroom window when the teacher asked him if he knew the answer to the question.***vacherin**

n

/ ˌvʌʃ(ə)'ræn /

L > F

a dessert consisting of a meringue filled usually with cream, ice cream, or fruit.

*Muffy bit into a crisp vacherin filled with sweet chestnut puree.***vainly**

adv

/ ˈvānlē /

L > E

in a manner that fails to achieve a purpose : unsuccessfully.

*Firefighters vainly tried to enter the burning house.***vaporize**

v

/ ˈvæpə.rɪz /

L + Ecf

become converted to the gaseous state.

*The cooling effect of rubbing alcohol on skin is caused by the extraction of heat as the molecules acquire kinetic energy and vaporize.***Vatican**

adj

/ ˈvədəkən /

L

of or relating to the official residence of the pope in Vatican City, Rome, especially as symbolizing the papacy or its policies.

The Vatican collection of religious art is the largest in the world.

Veda

n
/ 'vādə /
Skt

any of a class of the most ancient sacred writings of the Hindus.
The Veda, which is divided into four parts, was first translated into European languages in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

vermiculated

adj
/ və(r)'mikyə.lādəd /
L

wormlike in shape.
The old books that we found in the cellar were filled with vermiculated tunnels.

versicle

n
/ 'vərsəkəl /
L

a brief poem or set of metrical lines.
When he couldn't sleep, Lord Byron often sat up and wrote a versicle or two.

versicolor

adj
/ 'vərsəkələ(r) /
L + L

having various hues : variegated.
The woman in the long, versicolor silk skirt turned out to be the hostess.

verso

n
/ 'vər(,)sō /
L

a left-hand page (as of a book) usually carrying an even page number.
The first verso of a book often displays its International Standard Book Number.

viaticum

n
/ vī'adəkəm /
L

an allowance (as of transportation or supplies and money) for traveling expenses.
Shirley has spent all but \$50 of the \$500 viaticum her father gave her for her spring break trip.

vicennial

adj
/ vī'senēəl /
L

occurring once every 20 years.
The university president recognized the vicennial medalists, who for two decades had dedicated themselves to teaching, scholarship, and service.

videography

n
/ .vidē'ägrəfē /
L + Gk

the practice or art of recording images with a video camera.
The camcorders used in videography allow for more realism in police drama programs.

virtues

n pl

/ 'vɜ:(r)ʃu:z /

L

characteristics, qualities, or traits known or felt to be excellent.

Patience was not one of Keith's virtues.

virulence

n

/ 'vɪr(y)ələn(t)s /

L

the quality or property of being able to overcome the defense mechanism of the host.

Virulence is the capacity of an infectious agent to damage living cells.

virus

n

/ 'vɪrəs /

L

the causative agent of an infectious disease.

The Salk vaccine creates immunity to the virus responsible for polio.

viscera

n pl

/ 'vɪsərə /

L

internal organs of the body.

While on safari, the tourists passed a group of vultures feeding on the viscera of a dead zebra.

vision

n

/ 'vɪzhən /

L

something seen otherwise than by the ordinary sight.

Ravi keeps having a vision of a giant bowling ball rolling toward him.

visually

adv

/ 'vɪzhəleɪ /

L

with regard to the act or power of seeing.

A Seeing Eye dog is a great help to a visually impaired person.

vocalise

n

/ ,vɒkə'leɪz /

L

a vocalized melody or passage without words.

Jazz singing with nonsense syllables is an improvised form of vocalise.

voiceprint

n

/ 'vɔɪs,prɪnt /

L > F > E + L > F > E

an individually distinctive pattern of certain voice characteristics that is spectrographically produced.

Detectives testified that the kidnapper's voiceprint matches that of the defendant.

vole

n

/ vɒl /

Scand

any of various rodents that are closely related to the lemmings and muskrats but in general resemble murid mice or rats and inhabit both moist meadows and dry uplands.

The vole is a rodent often responsible for crop damage.

voltmeter

n

/ 'vɒlt.mēdɜ:(r) /

It name + Gk

an instrument for measuring in volts the differences of potential between different points of an electrical circuit.

The voltmeter showed no current moving through the wire.

volumetric

adj

/ ˌvɒlyəˈmetrɪk /

L + Gk

of or relating to the measurement of space occupied or enclosed by cubic units.

The expensive volumetric flask shattered when it slipped from Horace's hands.

vomitory

n

/ ˈvɒməˌtɔːrɪ /

L

an entrance piercing the banks of seats of a theater or amphitheater.

After the game ended, every vomitory was packed with fans rushing to their cars.

waders

n pl

/ ˈwɑːdə(r)z /

E

[has near homonym: waiters] high waterproof boots or a one-piece waterproof garment usually consisting of pants with attached boots that are used for wading (as when fishing).

As Bill and Tom canoed down the river, they passed a fly-fisherman in waders who didn't seem too happy to see them.

wambenger

n

/ ˈwɑːmbɛŋgə(r) /

unknown

a widely distributed Australian pouched mouse.

The tail of the wambenger is distinctive for its red color.

wampum

n

/ ˈwɑːmpəm /

Narraganset

beads made of shells polished and strung together in strands, belts, or sashes and used by the North American Indians as money, ceremonial pledges, and ornaments.

Some of the oldest existing wampum represents agreements between Native American tribes and Catholic missionaries and is now in the Vatican collection.

warbonnet

n

/ ˈwɒ(ə)r.bənət /

Gmc > F > E + L > F > E

an American Indian ceremonial headdress with a feathered extension down the back.

The Sioux chief proudly posed for the cameras in his eagle-feathered warbonnet.

warp

v

/ ˈwɒ(ə)rɪp /

E

turn or twist out of shape.

The constant wind began to warp the entire row of saplings.

warren

n

/ ˈwɒrən /

Gmc? > F > E

an area especially of uncultivated ground for the breeding of rabbits; also : a place abounding in rabbits.

Some of the rabbits in the overpopulated warren went elsewhere to find a place to live.

wasteful

adj

/ ˈwɑːstfəl /

E + Ecf

expending something valuable in a useless or extravagant manner.

The newly elected mayor suspected wasteful spending and initiated a thorough investigation of expenditures.

water

n

/ ˈwɒdə(r) /

E

the liquid that descends from the clouds as rain.

Water pelted the windshield so hard and fast that Etsu pulled off to the side of the road and waited for it to stop.

wattle

n
/ 'wäd°l /
E

[has homonym: waddle] a fabrication of rods or poles interwoven with slender branches, withes, or reeds.

Wattle is often used for garden fences in the English countryside.

wayward

adj
/ 'wāwə(r)d /
E

characterized by extreme willfulness and by determination to follow one's own capricious, wanton, or depraved inclinations to the point of being ungovernable.

The wayward child insisted on touching everybody's food.

wearying

adj
/ 'wirēij /
E

that causes to lose freshness or virtue or usefulness.

Katerina found the congenial cafes more interesting than the wearying tense casinos.

weave

v
/ 'wēv /
E

bring together and interrelate so as to form a coherent whole.

No one else on the radio can weave a wonderful story from whimsical tidbits the way Garrison Keillor can.

weber

n
/ 'webə(r) /
G name

the practical meter-kilogram-second unit of magnetic flux equal to that flux which in linking a circuit of one turn produces in it an electromotive force of 1 volt : 100 million maxwells.

Sarah's homework problem required her to find the voltage to the nearest weber.

weld

v
/ 'weld /
E

unite or consolidate by heating to a plastic or fluid state the surfaces of the parts to be joined and then allowing them to flow together.

As a sculptor, Erica has a workshop full of equipment to help her weld large metal sheets together.

Wesak

n
/ 'wē.säk /

Skt > Sinhalese

the Buddhist New Year festival celebrating the birthday of the Buddha at the May full moon.

In Sri Lanka, Buddhists dress in white and carry baskets of flowers to the monastery to celebrate Wesak.

wheaten

n
/ 'hwēt°n /
E

the color of wheat; specifically : a pale yellow or fawn characteristic of certain breeds of dogs.

Wheaten, the color of Missy's soft-coated terrier, sharply contrasts with that of her boyfriend's black Scottish terrier.

whiff

n
/ 'hwif /
imit

an inhalation of odor, smoke, gas, or vapor.

The faintest whiff of cigarette smoke made Fagan sneeze.

windbreaks

n pl
/ 'wind.brəks /
E + E

rowed or clumped trees or shrubs that give protection against the wind.

The farm presented an orderly appearance with the fencing and hedging, the windbreaks and sheds, and the symmetrical pasture ponds.

windmill

n
/ 'wind.mil /
E

a mechanism operated by wind motion acting on oblique vanes or sails radiating from a horizontal shaft.

The windmill drew water up from the well for the cattle to drink.

woe

n
/ 'wō /
E

[has homonyms and near homonym: wo, woa, and whoa] distress.

Woe to the student who must stay in detention hall with Mrs. McGillicutty.

womanly

adv
/ 'wʊmənli /
E

possessed of the character or behavior befitting a grown woman.
Mona's womanly, capable, and mature attitude belies her true age.

women

n pl
/ 'wimən /
E

female human beings.

Sojourner Truth preached against the evils of slavery and for the rights of women.

wonder

v
/ 'wʌndə(r) /
E

be in a state of rapt or questioning attention.

Though no insight ever hit him, Jules was disposed nonetheless to wonder at life's mysteries.

wood**woodchuck**

n
/ 'wʊd.tʃək /

Ojibwa or Cree > E
a thickset marmot of the northeastern United States and Canada with a chiefly grizzled reddish brown color.

The world's most famous woodchuck is probably Punxsutawney Phil.

worldwide

adj
/ 'wɜ:ld.waɪd /
E

extended or extending throughout the entire world.

There have been no successful attempts to build a worldwide empire in history, unless we count multinational corporations.

worry

v
/ 'wɒri /
E

afflict with mental distress or agitation : make anxious.

Despite her high grades, final exams always worry Lynette because she is a perfectionist.

wretchedness

n
/ 'retʃəd.nəs /
E

the quality or state of being deeply afflicted, dejected, or distressed from want, disease, or mental anguish.

The homeless man's wretchedness brought Suzanne to tears.

wrinkle

n
/ 'rɪŋkəl /
E

an innovation in method, technique, or equipment.

The newest wrinkle in Internet technology seems to be wireless communication.

writing

adj
/ 'rɪtɪŋ /

E
of, relating to, or used in or for the act or art of forming letters on a suitable medium to communicate the ideas which characters and words express.

Mr. Burrett grabbed a writing pad off his desk before the meeting.

wrong

n
/ 'rɒŋ /

E
the state of being mistaken or incorrect.

After listening to two skilled lawyers argue a case, it is often difficult to tell which side is in the wrong.

xysti

n pl
/ 'zɪstɪ /
Gk > L

long open porticoes used especially by ancient Greeks or Romans for athletic exercises in wintry or stormy weather.

There were xysti at each end of the emperor's villa, and athletes often trained there during the rainy season.

yards

n pl
/ 'jɑːrdz /
E

units of length in the United States, each equal to 0.9144 meter.

The band marched eight-to-five: eight equal steps for every 5 yards.

yawn

v
/ 'jəʊn /
E

gape cavernously : present a wide gulf or breach.

In Rocky Mountain National Park there is a dizzying road with valleys that yawn on either side.

Yeatsian

adj
/ 'jætsiən /
Irish name

of or relating to W.B. Yeats or his poetic style or influence.

Many young poets publish a series of Yeatsian poems expressing the romance of history and nature.

yeti

n
/ 'jetɪ /
Tibetan

abominable snowman.

The mountaineer claimed to have found his way out of a blizzard by following the huge footprints of a yeti.

yew

n
/ 'juː /
E

[has homonyms: ewe, you] any of numerous ornamental evergreen shrubs and trees having stiff leaves spirally arranged, a fruit consisting of a fleshy covering enclosing a hard seed, and poisonous juice.

Wood of the English yew is valued for cabinetwork and archery bows.

Yinglish

n
/ 'ɪŋ(ɡ)lɪʃ /
G + E

English marked by numerous borrowings from Yiddish.

Max's grandfather speaks a colorful Yinglish with the younger members of his family.

zazen

n
/ 'zæ.zən /
Jpn

Zen meditation.

Sitting in the lotus position, Naomi found she slipped easily into a state of zazen.

Zendo

n

/'zɛndō /

Jpn

a place used for Zen meditation.

*Thom built a spacious Zendo beside his house and went there every afternoon.***zestful**

adj

/'zɛstfəl /

F + Ecf

full of vitality marked by vigor and enthusiasm.

*Brian's teacher described him as lighthearted but not insensitive, zestful but not aggressive.***Zionist**

n

/'zi:ənəst /

Hebrew > L > E

an adherent to or supporter of a theory, plan, or movement for setting up a Jewish national or religious community in Palestine.

*The old Zionist vowed he would not take his last breath until the Jewish state was established.***zooty****Zoroastrian**

adj

/ .zōrə'wɑstrēən /

Av > Gk > L

of or relating to a religion founded in Persia by the prophet Zoroaster teaching the worship of Ahura Mazda as the source of all good.

The Zoroastrian scriptures preach the concepts of the immortal soul, heaven, and hell.