

The Word Within the Word • List #21

equivocate	(to hedge)	The equivocating politician praised both groups.
superfluous	(unnecessary)	A superfluous comment is a waste of time.
bilateral	(two-sided)	The two nations formed a bilateral agreement.
unilateral	(one-sided)	The U.S. made a unilateral withdrawal.
circumspect	(cautious)	A circumspect reply is safer.
commensurate	(of like measure)	A big job needs a commensurate reward.
malevolence	(evil intent)	The creature cast a malevolent glare.
neophyte	(beginner)	She is a neophyte in the art world.
misanthropist	(people-hater)	The grouchy misanthropist wouldn't contribute.
bellicose	(warlike)	The bellicose tribe attacked without warning.
anthropomorphic	(man-shaped)	They believe in an anthropomorphic god.
captious	(fault-finding)	The captious remarks were not sincere.
neologism	(new word)	Create a neologism, like <i>televoracious</i> .
malediction	(a curse)	The convict's muttered malediction was inaudible.
incredulous	(not believing)	Her incredulous expression showed her feelings.
omniscient	(all-knowing)	You can't keep secrets from an omniscient god.
monomania	(obsession with one thing)	It was a hobby that became a monomania.
specious	(false)	You have a convincing but unfortunately specious argument.
excoriate	(verbally flog)	His speech excoriated the opponent.
prototype	(first model)	We saw an early prototype of the Mustang.
xenophobia	(fear of foreigners)	It is a hostile, xenophobic country.
benediction	(blessing)	The Pope's smiling benediction was televised.
amorphous	(shapeless)	A gray, amorphous mass was in the corner.
preponderance	(bulk)	The preponderance of the evidence indicates guilt.
magnanimous	(great-minded)	His magnanimous victory speech showed generosity.

## The Word Within the Word • List #22

mollify	<i>(make soft)</i>	It can be difficult to mollify someone's anger.
ichthyologist	<i>(fish scientist)</i>	Up splashed a water-logged ichthyologist.
polyglot	<i>(multi-linguist)</i>	She is a brilliant polyglot who speaks seven languages.
diaphanous	<i>(semitransparent)</i>	Look through the diaphanous draperies.
somniferous	<i>(bringing sleep)</i>	The somniferous speech put him to sleep.
sinecure	<i>(an easy, lucrative job)</i>	He has a comfortable sinecure in his uncle's firm.
soliloquy	<i>(speech to oneself)</i>	Hamlet's famous soliloquy asks the great question.
adherent	<i>(supporter)</i>	The adherents of a militaristic foreign policy want war.
abjure	<i>(renounce)</i>	To abjure one's former beliefs is stressful.
caustic	<i>(burning)</i>	The caustic comments about her clothes hurt her.
confluence	<i>(a flowing together)</i>	The idea was formed by a confluence of other ideas.
depose	<i>(topple from power)</i>	He was deposed without violence.
egomania	<i>(self-obsession)</i>	The offensive egomaniac praised himself.
egregious	<i>(blatant)</i>	It was an egregious act of vandalism.
analgesic	<i>(painkiller)</i>	Take an extra-strength analgesic for the headache.
chiromancy	<i>(palm reading)</i>	Try to divine the future through chiromancy.
oligarchy	<i>(government by a few)</i>	The corrupt Greek oligarchy kept control.
intractable	<i>(stubborn)</i>	The bigot's intractable opinions were unchangeable.
intransigent	<i>(not compromising)</i>	The intransigent true believers wouldn't budge.
perfidious	<i>(treacherous)</i>	His perfidious cowardice made him infamous.
perspicuous	<i>(brilliantly clear)</i>	Her perspicuous essay won her the scholarship.
ingenuous	<i>(innocent and naive)</i>	The ingenuous—but not ingenious—girl believed it.
circumlocution	<i>(talking in circles)</i>	He used circumlocution to avoid answering the question.
gregarious	<i>(sociable)</i>	He has a friendly, gregarious personality.
discursive	<i>(rambling)</i>	It was an illogical, discursive speech.

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## The Word Within the Word • List #23

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egocentric	(self-centered)	The egocentric snob didn't notice whom he hurt.
tangible	(touchable)	A paycheck is one of the tangible benefits of a job.
demagogue	(corrupt politician)	The demagogue played on public prejudices.
preclude	(prevent in advance)	Don't preclude that option.
cryptologist	(code breaker)	British cryptologists cracked the German code.
ethnocentrism	(racial or cultural prejudice)	We deplore his narrow ethnocentrism.
pedagogue	(teacher)	A humorless pedant is a poor pedagogue.
recant	(retract)	Galileo was forced to recant his heliocentric statements.
revoke	(cancel)	Permission to travel has been revoked.
pugnacious	(combative)	The pugnacious bully got his comeuppance.
incisive	(sharp)	Her incisive questions cut deeply into the issue.
diatribe	(abusive criticism)	The German leader delivered a diatribe against France.
anomaly	(abnormality)	There is an inexplicable anomaly in the data.
enumerate	(to list)	Please enumerate your reasons.
circumscribed	(limited)	You must choose among certain circumscribed alternatives.
intercede	(mediate)	We are forced to intercede on behalf of the orphan.
disputatious	(argumentative)	The disputatious reporter irritated the official.
loquacious	(talkative)	The loquacious fellow wore their ears out.
abrogate	(annul)	We abrogate an agreement only out of dire necessity.
prescience	(foreknowledge)	A prescient vision came to him in a dream.
sacrosanct	(sacred)	He would not endanger his sacrosanct bowling night.
androgynous	(masculine and feminine)	The androgynous rock star performed in a mixed wardrobe.
acronym	(initials-name)	The acronym NATO means North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
congenital	(at birth)	The problem is a congenital defect.
cacophony	(bad noise)	The cacophonous roar of the crowd was deafening.

## The Word Within the Word • List #24

advocate	<i>(speak for)</i>	It is time to advocate for a new policy.
ponderous	<i>(weighty)</i>	He was crushed by the ponderous burden of the decision.
retribution	<i>(revenge)</i>	Expect a brutal retribution for what you have done.
android	<i>(robot)</i>	The android's metallic eye glistened redly.
infidel	<i>(unbeliever)</i>	The crusade against the infidels was unsuccessful.
resurgence	<i>(rising again)</i>	The resurgence of patriotism began slowly.
punctilious	<i>(precise in conduct)</i>	She liked his punctilious formal conduct.
condescend	<i>(lower oneself)</i>	His condescending attitude was infuriating.
collateral	<i>(side by side)</i>	The two collateral issues could not be discussed separately.
irrevocable	<i>(beyond recall)</i>	The past is irrevocable and answers no call.
elucidate	<i>(explain)</i>	Please elucidate the matter for our less enlightened guest.
epigram	<i>(witty comment)</i>	Benjamin Franklin's epigrams amuse us still.
eccentricity	<i>(oddness)</i>	The genius's eccentric personality began to moderate.
cognizant	<i>(aware)</i>	It is wise to be cognizant of the laws regulating investments.
stringent	<i>(binding)</i>	The stringent regulations seemed excessively severe.
anthropoid	<i>(manlike)</i>	The anthropoid apes have recognizable facial expressions.
diffident	<i>(shy)</i>	Her diffident glance caught his eye.
pandemonium	<i>(demonic clamor)</i>	Sheer pandemonium erupted on the playground.
urbane	<i>(sophisticated)</i>	The diplomat's urbane manners set the tone.
tractable	<i>(docile)</i>	The tractable little boy was a pleasure to learn from.
supersede	<i>(replace)</i>	This directive supersedes all previous directives.
temporize	<i>(delay)</i>	Begin without temporizing, if you please.
somnambulist	<i>(sleepwalker)</i>	Lady Macbeth's famous somnambulism is unforgettable.
sanguinary	<i>(bloody)</i>	We still mourn the sanguinary battles of the Civil War.
inanimate	<i>(lifeless)</i>	The inanimate stones tell no tales.

## The Word Within the Word • List #25

introspective	<i>(inward looking)</i>	The quiet boy is an introspective loner.
intervene	<i>(come between)</i>	We should not intervene in their dispute.
syndrome	<i>(complex of symptoms)</i>	Down syndrome has some well-known symptoms.
subordinate	<i>(lower)</i>	He resented his subordinate rank in the military.
dissonant	<i>(inharmonious)</i>	A dissonant clamor arose in the streets.
belligerent	<i>(warring)</i>	The belligerent nations refused to negotiate.
credible	<i>(believable)</i>	It takes money to become a credible candidate.
impending	<i>(overhanging)</i>	“The shadow of impending doom” is a trite phrase.
polyphonic	<i>(multi-melodic)</i>	Bach’s polyphonic concertos are beautiful.
exculpate	<i>(free from blame)</i>	He wished to be completely exculpated.
euphemism	<i>(pleasant name)</i>	“Restroom” is a euphemism.
benefactor	<i>(helper)</i>	Who was the anonymous benefactor to little Pip?
megalomania	<i>(delusions of greatness)</i>	A Napoleon complex is a form of megalomania.
magnate	<i>(powerful person)</i>	The oil magnates in Saudi Arabia control billions of dollars.
vivacious	<i>(lively)</i>	Her vivacious personality cheered us all.
heliotropic	<i>(sun-following)</i>	The heliotropic vines clogged the window.
amour-propre	<i>(self-love)</i>	There is no lack of <i>amour-propre</i> in her!
octogenarian	<i>(an eighty-year-old)</i>	The spry octogenarian won the race.
cognoscenti	<i>(those who know)</i>	This wine is preferred by the cognoscenti.
surfeit	<i>(excess)</i>	He consumed a painful surfeit of food and drink.
primate	<i>(monkeys, apes, and humans)</i>	In what ways are the higher primates different from other species?
pellucid	<i>(crystal clear)</i>	Pellucid waters and pellucid prose are equally beautiful.
circumvent	<i>(get around)</i>	It is unwise to circumvent the rules in prison.
hemiplegia	<i>(paralysis on one side)</i>	We helped the victim of hemiplegia.
narcolepsy	<i>(attacks of sleep)</i>	She suffered uncontrollable attacks of narcolepsy.