

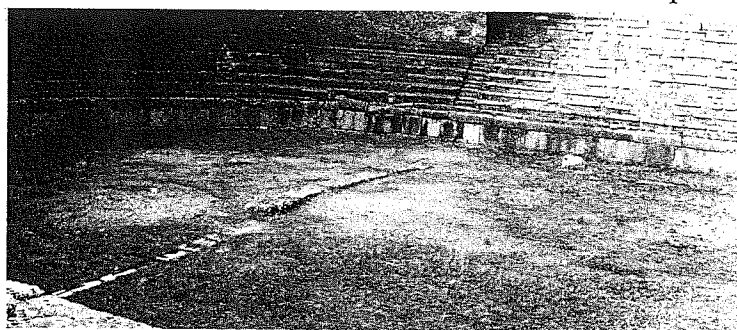
The Word Within the Word • List #16

Anglo	<i>(English)</i>	Anglophile, Anglophobe, Anglican, Anglicism, Anglo-Saxon	<i>Latin</i>
ist	<i>(one who)</i>	artist, funambulist, anthropologist, solipsist, centrist, atheist, sophist	<i>Greek</i>
saur	<i>(lizard)</i>	dinosaur, pterosaur, tyrannosaurus, stegosaurus, saurian, plesiosaur	<i>Greek</i>
pithec	<i>(ape)</i>	pithecanthropus, australopithecus, dryopithecus, oreopithecus	<i>Greek</i>
calli	<i>(beautiful)</i>	calligraphy, calliope, calisthenics, calliopsis, callithumpian	<i>Greek</i>
austro	<i>(south)</i>	australopithecus, Australia, austral, Austronesia, austromancy	<i>Latin</i>
cephalo	<i>(head)</i>	cephalic, cephalopod, cephalothorax, microcephalic, encephalitis	<i>Greek</i>
chiro	<i>(hand)</i>	chiromancy, chiropody, chiropteran, chiropractor	<i>Greek</i>
caust	<i>(burn)</i>	caustic, holocaust, cauterize, caustically, causticity	<i>Greek</i>
terr	<i>(land)</i>	extraterrestrial, subterranean, Mediterranean, terrain, terra firma	<i>Latin</i>
cata	<i>(down)</i>	catapult, catastrophe, catacombs, catalepsy, cataclysm, cataract	<i>Greek</i>
jur	<i>(swear)</i>	abjure, adjure, perjure, jury, jurisdiction, jurisprudence, jurist	<i>Latin</i>
flu	<i>(flow)</i>	confluence, fluid, influence, fluent, superfluous, effluent, fluvial	<i>Latin</i>
here	<i>(stick)</i>	coherence, adhesive, adhere, inherent, incoherent	<i>Latin</i>
pos	<i>(put)</i>	position, deposit, superimpose, transpose, depose, imposition	<i>Latin</i>
mund	<i>(world)</i>	mundane, transmundane, intermundane, mundanity, mundo	<i>Latin</i>
cracy	<i>(government)</i>	autocracy, democracy, aristocracy, plutocracy, meritocracy	<i>Greek</i>
mania	<i>(madness)</i>	kleptomania, egomania, pyromania, dipsomania, megalomania	<i>Greek</i>
ize	<i>(make)</i>	victimize, harmonize, temporize, mobilize, fossilize, polarize, bowdlerize	<i>Greek</i>
antho	<i>(flower)</i>	anthology, anthozoan, anthocyanin, anthophilous, anther	<i>Greek</i>
algia	<i>(pain)</i>	neuralgia, analgesic, arthralgia, hemialgia, algometer, algophobia	<i>Greek</i>
somn	<i>(sleep)</i>	insomnia, somniferous, somnolent, somnambulate, somniloquy	<i>Latin</i>
quadr	<i>(four)</i>	quadruped, quadratic, quadrant, quadruplet, quadrilateral, quadriplegic	<i>Latin</i>
err	<i>(wander)</i>	error, erratic, knight-errant, erroneous, erratum	<i>Latin</i>
sine	<i>(without)</i>	sinecure, sine qua non, sine die, sine prole	<i>Latin</i>

The Word Within the Word • Notes #16

1. A **Micropoem**: An **anthology** of modern poetry is a collection of poetry from many different poets, carefully selected in order to present poems of high quality. An anthology is a good way to become familiar with many famous poems and with differences in style among poets. Even the word **anthology** is poetic. In fact, **anthology** contains a quiet but beautiful metaphor, for the literal meaning of **anthology** is to make a study/ collection of (*logy*) the flowers (*antho*). An anthologist collects the flowers of literature.
2. When we say that there has been a **confluence** of ideas or a confluence of trends, we are taking an image from geography, from the lowlands where the rivers flow (*flu*) together (*con*).
3. Imagine taking the trouble to put something together from many different places, only to find that you didn't put it together well enough, and now the pieces are dropping off and falling, one at a time. This is the image we relish when we say that an argument is **coherent** or **incoherent**. If an argument is coherent, it sticks (*here*) together (*co*). The stuff that makes an argument stick together is a mixture of consistency and logic.
4. The usual order of events is that we have to take time in order to do things. But sometimes it is the opposite. Sometimes we try to stall or delay, and so we have to think of things to do in order to make time. To do so is to **temporize**, literally to make (*ize*) time (*tempor*).
5. **Jurisdiction** is a big, stately word. It means the legal power to hear disputes and to interpret the law. The literal meaning of the word is exactly that; the person with jurisdiction can say (*dict*) what the law (*jur*) requires.
6. Even careful speakers sometimes confuse two similar words, **abjure** and **adjure**. To abjure a belief is to disclaim it, to renounce it. To adjure someone is to earnestly command or request them. How can these two words, like two insects that strikingly resemble each other through protective coloration, be told apart? The answer is in the prefix. **Abjure**, to renounce, means swear (*jur*) away (*ab*). **Adjure**, to entreat, means swear (*jur*) to (*ad*). I abjure my former political beliefs, but I adjure you not to forsake yours.
7. What does **calisthenics** mean? The art (*ics*) of becoming beautiful (*calli*) and strong (*sthen*)!
8. Under the ocean there are beautiful, flowery, plant-like organisms such as sea corals and sea anemones. But are they plants? The answer is in their name; they are the **anthozoans**, the flower (*antho*) animals (*zo*).
9. Some words provide almost mystical insight. Do we **influence** each other? Then we flow (*flu*) into (*in*) each other as we exchange ideas, thoughts, emotions, and reactions. We allow our selves to flow into each other.
10. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

Anglicism : Anglicismo
atheist : ateísta
calligraphy : caligrafía
microcephalic : microcefálico
extraterrestrial : extraterrestre
holocaust : holocausto
coherence : coherencia
anthology : antología
somniferous : somnífero



The stone finish line of the stadium at Delphi was just a few steps short of a stone wall.

The Word Within the Word • List #17

lingu	<i>(tongue)</i>	bilingual, linguist, lingua franca, linguini, language	<i>Latin</i>
mot	<i>(move)</i>	motor, motivation, demote, emotion, motion, promote, motile, commotion	<i>Latin</i>
nav	<i>(ship)</i>	navy, naval, navigate, circumnavigate, unnavigable	<i>Latin</i>
und	<i>(wave)</i>	inundate, undulate, undulatory, undulation	<i>Latin</i>
flect	<i>(bend)</i>	reflect, inflection, genuflect, deflect, reflection	<i>Latin</i>
coron	<i>(crown)</i>	corona, coronation, coronary, coroner	<i>Latin</i>
aur	<i>(gold)</i>	aureate, auriferous, Aurora, auric	<i>Latin</i>
liter	<i>(letter)</i>	literature, illiterate, preliterate, literati	<i>Latin</i>
rat	<i>(think)</i>	rational, ratio, irrational, ratiocinate, rationalize	<i>Latin</i>
sis	<i>(condition)</i>	arteriosclerosis, osmosis, mitosis, meiosis, catharsis, symbiosis	<i>Greek</i>
par	<i>(equal)</i>	parity, disparity, par, compare, incomparable, disparate	<i>Latin</i>
mens	<i>(measure)</i>	commensurate, immense, incommensurable, measurable, dimension	<i>Latin</i>
mony	<i>(condition)</i>	acrimony, patrimony, matrimony, ceremony, parsimony	<i>Latin</i>
quin	<i>(five)</i>	quintet, quintillion, quintuplet, quintuple, quintessence, quindecagon	<i>Latin</i>
socio	<i>(society)</i>	sociology, sociable, socialism, sociopath, dissociate	<i>Latin</i>
ovi	<i>(egg)</i>	oviducts, oviparous, ovipositors, ovoviviparous, ovisac, oviform, ovary, oval	<i>Latin</i>
phasia	<i>(speech)</i>	aphasia, dysphasia, apophasis	<i>Greek</i>
pter	<i>(wing)</i>	pterodactyl, helicopter, pterosaur, archaeopteryx, chiropteran	<i>Greek</i>
phen	<i>(appearance)</i>	phenomenon, phenotype, phosphenes, fancy, fantasy	<i>Greek</i>
hist	<i>(tissue)</i>	histopathology, histolysis, histology, histogenesis	<i>Greek</i>
glott	<i>(tongue)</i>	epiglottis, polyglot, glossolalia, glottal, monoglot, glossectomy	<i>Greek</i>
phan	<i>(appearance)</i>	phantom, epiphany, diaphanous, sycophant, cellophane, theophany	<i>Greek</i>
peri	<i>(near or around)</i>	perimeter, perihelion, perigee, periphery, periodical	<i>Greek</i>
pot	<i>(drink)</i>	potable, potion, potation, potatory, compote, symposium	<i>Latin</i>
via	<i>(road)</i>	via, viaduct, trivia, via avion, obviate, obvious, via media	<i>Latin</i>

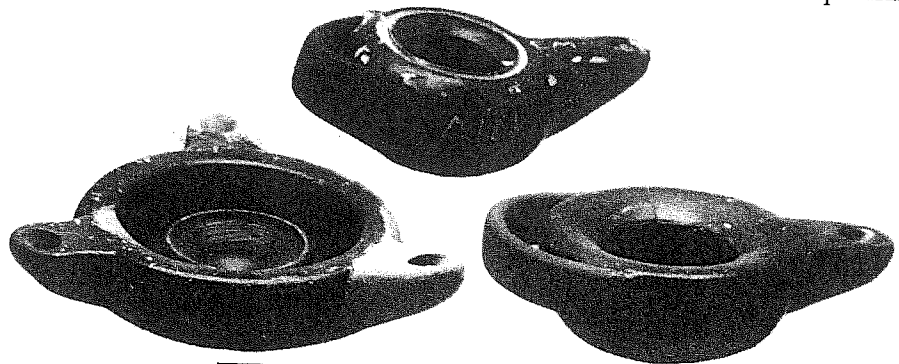
The Word Within the Word • Notes #17

1. A **Micropoem**: Pasta lovers beware. There is good news and bad news. The bad news is that **linguini** means little tongues, and **vermicelli** means little worms. The good news is that both terms refer to the shape of the pasta, not to the ingredients.
2. A **Micropoem**: A person who speaks many languages is a **polyglot**. But the literal meaning of the word is many (*poly*) tongued (*glot*). It is fortunate that the term is metaphorical, rather than anatomical! One is tempted to suggest that a true polyglot would make short work of an ice cream cone. And what if your blind date turned out to be a polyglot!
3. Why is a helicopter called a **helicopter**? Because as a helicopter goes up or down, its rotating wings (*pter*) describe a helix (*helico*) in the air.
4. To ask if the rewards of a job are **commensurate** with the responsibilities is to ask if what you get is on the same scale with what you give. It is to ask if the benefits and the requirements can be measured (*mens*) together (*co*).
5. A **phenomenon** is something that one observes and (usually) regards as remarkable. A green cloud would be an interesting meteorological phenomenon. The word **phenomenon** derives from the notion of something that appears or something that shines. The two stems *phen* and *phan* are actually variations of each other.

There is a common mistake in usage that occurs with the word **phenomenon** and its plural, **phenomena**. People use the plural when they should use the singular, and vice-versa. To say, "I saw an interesting phenomena" is like saying "I saw an interesting ducks." Just as we don't say *a ducks* or *those duck*, we shouldn't say *a phenomena* or *those phenomenon*.

6. To **obviate** the necessity of a trip is to make it unnecessary, to avoid the problem through anticipation. Literally, the word **obviate** means to look ahead for problems, spot them, and take the road (*via*) away (*ob*) before you reach them.
7. **Trivial** conversation is conversation of no importance. It is jabber, chatter. It is the sort of conversation that, in ancient times when people didn't travel in enclosed vehicles, used to arise when people met at intersections and stopped to talk. Trivial conversation is the sort to be found where three (*tri*) roads (*via*) cross. Trivial talk is crossroads talk.
8. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

bilingual : bilingüe
promote : promover
reflection : reflexión
irrational : irracional
compare : comparar
immense : inmenso
helicopter : helicóptero
symbiosis : simbiosis



Oil lamps provided some light after dark in Greek homes.

The Word Within the Word • List #18

atmo	<i>(vapor)</i>	atmosphere, atmolysis, atmometer, atmospheric, atman	<i>Greek</i>
cardio	<i>(heart)</i>	cardiology, cardiovascular, cardiac, electrocardiogram	<i>Greek</i>
cosmo	<i>(world or universe)</i>	cosmos, cosmopolitan, cosmonaut, cosmology, microcosm	<i>Greek</i>
counter	<i>(against)</i>	counteract, counterproductive, counterpoint, counterinsurgence	<i>Latin</i>
cranio	<i>(skull)</i>	craniology, intracranial, craniotomy, cranium, dolichocranic	<i>Greek</i>
cyclo	<i>(circle)</i>	cyclone, cyclotron, bicycle, encyclopedia, recycle, cyclical	<i>Greek</i>
gno	<i>(know)</i>	agnostic, prognosis, gnostic, Gnosticism, diagnosis, topognosia, ignominy	<i>Greek</i>
oss	<i>(bone)</i>	ossify, ossuary, ossicle, osseous, ossiferous, ossein, ossification	<i>Latin</i>
xylo	<i>(wood)</i>	xylophone, xylograph, xyloid, xylophagous, xylose, xyotomy, xylem	<i>Greek</i>
monger	<i>(seller)</i>	fishmonger, warmonger, costermonger, ballad monger, phrasemonger	<i>Latin</i>
sept	<i>(seven)</i>	septangular, September, septuagenarian, septillion, Septuagint	<i>Latin</i>
xeno	<i>(stranger)</i>	xenophobia, xenolith, xenon, xenogenesis, xenodiagnosis	<i>Greek</i>
vas	<i>(vessel)</i>	vasoconstrictor, cardiovascular, vase, vessicle, vascular, vasectomy	<i>Latin</i>
fore	<i>(front)</i>	forehead, foreboding, forecast, forethought, foresail, forefront	<i>Old English</i>
ish	<i>(like)</i>	greenish, smallish, outlandish, snobbish, ghoulish, squeamish, mannish	<i>Old English</i>
less	<i>(without)</i>	fruitless, hopeless, motherless, bootless, pointless, hapless, feckless	<i>Old English</i>
baro	<i>(pressure)</i>	barometer, barograph, barometric, barogram, barometry	<i>Greek</i>
ferro	<i>(iron)</i>	ferronickel, ferromagnetic, ferrous, ferric, ferrite, ferroconcrete	<i>Latin</i>
quasi	<i>(somewhat)</i>	quasar, quasi-military, quasi-stellar, quasi-official, quasi-judicial	<i>Latin</i>
nesia	<i>(island)</i>	Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia, Austronesia	<i>Greek</i>
lepsy	<i>(attack)</i>	narcolepsy, epilepsy, catalepsy	<i>Greek</i>
let	<i>(little)</i>	booklet, piglet, aglet, hamlet, coverlet, omelet	<i>Latin</i>
nano	<i>(billionth)</i>	nanosecond, nanoplankton, nanosomia, nanogram	<i>Greek</i>
pico	<i>(trillionth)</i>	picofarad, picosecond, picogram	<i>Italian</i>
ideo	<i>(idea)</i>	ideograph, ideology, ideologue, ideogram, idée fixe, idealism	<i>Greek</i>

The Word Within the Word • Notes #18

1. If you think for a moment about the many great cities of the world, cities on every continent and in every terrain and climate, and if you think of how it would change you to spend time traveling over the world, getting to know these great cities, to understand them, to feel at home in them, then you begin to understand the sense of the word **cosmopolitan**. To be cosmopolitan is to be sophisticated, traveled, knowledgeable about what is available. To be cosmopolitan is not to be provincial, but to understand the things that people who know the cities (*polis*) of the world (*cosmo*) understand.
2. What is a **xylophone**? It is a series of wooden (*xylo*) bars of different lengths mounted on felt pads. When the wooden bars are struck, they make different sounds (*phon*), depending on the length of each bar. Though modern xylophones sometimes use metal bars, the word **xylophone** still means the sound of wood.
3. Perhaps the most derogatory term we have to describe a truly bad poet is the term **balladmonger**. It implies that the work isn't truly poetry at all, but merely mediocre lyrics, and that the poet isn't really an artist but a vendor (*monger*), trying to foist his bad words off on the public. **Balladmonger** is a fiercer term than **rhymester** or **poetaster**, which are also terms of derision for bad poets. Poetry tends to excite the emotions of those who wish to defend it. Emerson once pulled out all the stops in an effort to condemn the ostentatiously technical poetry of Edgar Allan Poe; Emerson called Poe "the jingle man."
4. **A Micropoem:** The word **atmosphere** contains an interesting feat of vision. Imagine what the atmosphere would look like from space if the rest of the earth became completely invisible. The resulting sight would be just what the word implies: an immense sphere of vapor (*atmo*) floating in space. The atmosphere is a vaporsphere.
5. **Spanish Cognates:** One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

atmosphere : atmósfera
cosmopolitan : cosmopolita
agnostic : agnóstico
xylophone : xilófono
cardiovascular : cardiovascular
xenophobia : xenofobia



Not only are the forms of comedy and tragedy direct descendants of the Athenian theater, but the very terms *theater*, *comedy*, and *tragedy* come to us almost unchanged from the Greek language of 2,500 years ago.

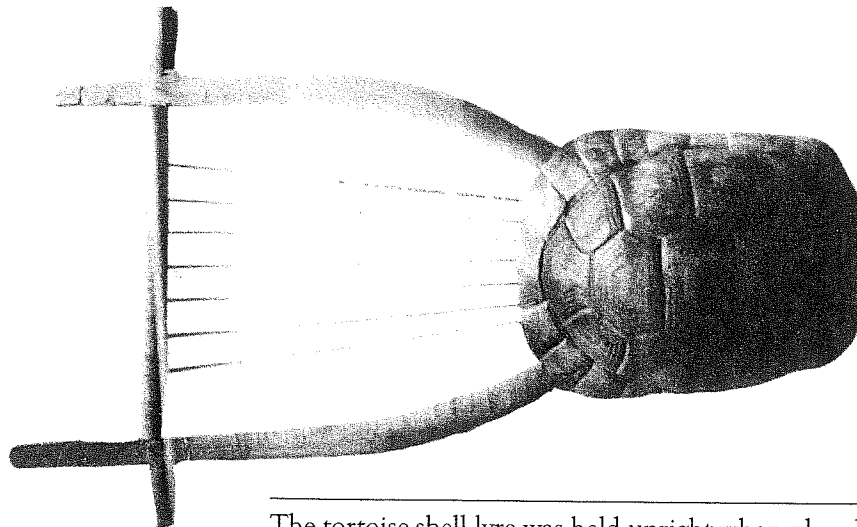
The Word Within the Word • List #19

ven	<i>(come)</i>	convene, convention, avenue, circumvent, advent, prevent, subvention	<i>Latin</i>
ichthy	<i>(fish)</i>	ichthyosaur, ichthyologist, ichthyoid, ichthyosis	<i>Greek</i>
pulse	<i>(drive)</i>	impulse, repulse, pulsate, impulsive	<i>Latin</i>
calor	<i>(heat)</i>	calorie, calorimeter, calorific, caloric	<i>Latin</i>
sol	<i>(sun)</i>	solar, solstice, solarium, solarize, solar plexus	<i>Latin</i>
strat	<i>(layer)</i>	stratigraphy, stratosphere, cirrostratus, strata, substratum, stratified	<i>Latin</i>
nuc	<i>(center)</i>	nucleus, nucleate, nuclide, nucleon, nucleotide, nucleoplasm	<i>Latin</i>
sat	<i>(enough)</i>	satisfy, dissatisfaction, saturate, insatiable, sate	<i>Latin</i>
protero	<i>(early)</i>	Proterozoic, proterandrous, proteranthous	<i>Greek</i>
mont	<i>(mountain)</i>	piedmont, Montana, Montevideo, montane, cismontane	<i>Latin</i>
kilo	<i>(thousand)</i>	kilometer, kiloton, kilowatt, kilogram	<i>Greek</i>
myria	<i>(many)</i>	myriad, myriapod, myriameter, myriarch, myriophyllum	<i>Greek</i>
tachy	<i>(quick)</i>	tachometer, tachycardia, tachylyte, tachygraphy	<i>Greek</i>
fiss	<i>(split)</i>	fissile, fission, fissipalmate, fissiped, fissure	<i>Latin</i>
cumu	<i>(heaped)</i>	accumulate, cumulus, cumulonimbus, cumulative	<i>Latin</i>
meteor	<i>(high)</i>	meteorite, meteoric, meteorograph, meteorology	<i>Greek</i>
hibern	<i>(winter)</i>	hibernate, hibernal, hibernaculum	<i>Latin</i>
di	<i>(two)</i>	diverge, dicotyledon, diencephalon, dilemma, catadioptric	<i>Greek</i>
bath	<i>(deep)</i>	bathymetry, bathyscaph, bathysphere, bathos, batholith	<i>Greek</i>
cirr	<i>(hair)</i>	cirrus, cirrostratus, cirriped, cirrocumulus	<i>Greek</i>
grav	<i>(heavy)</i>	gravity, gravid, gravimetric, gravamen, aggravate	<i>Latin</i>
solv	<i>(loosen)</i>	resolve, dissolve, absolve, solvent, insolvency	<i>Latin</i>
ophthal	<i>(eye)</i>	ophthalmologist, ophthalmoscope, ophthalmic, exophthalmic	<i>Greek</i>
oma	<i>(tumor)</i>	melanoma, carcinoma, hematoma, glaucoma	<i>Greek</i>
rub	<i>(red)</i>	rubric, rubious, rubicund, ruby, rubescent, rubella	<i>Latin</i>

The Word Within the Word • Notes #19

1. A **Micropoem**: **Ichthyosis** is a congenital disease that causes the sufferer's skin to harden and flake off. The name of the disease is unpleasantly descriptive because it means that the skin is in a fishy (*ichthy*) condition (*osis*).
2. The **Proterozoic** Age (a term which does not enjoy the vogue it once did among geologists) is a geologic time period that occurred between the Paleozoic and Archeozoic periods. It lasted from about 1,400,000,000 years ago until 620,000,000 years ago and is named after the fossils found in its sedimentary rock deposits. Only the simplest, most primitive fossils, including some invertebrates and marine algae, can be found in these rocks. The Proterozoic Era was the time of early (*protero*) animals (*zo*).
3. What is the difference between nuclear **fission** and nuclear **fusion**? It is simple to remember. Nuclear fission is the splitting (*fiss*) of the nucleus of a heavy atom like uranium, whereas fusion is the joining (*fus*: pour together) of the nuclei of lighter atoms like deuterium into heavier atoms like helium. Fission is a splitting; fusion is a pouring together.
4. In some books there is a title or heading that is set off from the rest of the text by being printed in red (*rub*). It is called a **rubric** after the traditional color used, even though today the rubric is sometimes printed in a color other than red.
5. In ancient Greece a **myriarch** was a commander (*arch*) of ten thousand (*myria*) soldiers. We still retain the stem *myria*, but we have relaxed the concept to mean not ten thousand, but very many. The **Myriapoda** are the little critters with gobs of legs (*pod*), such as the centipedes and the millipedes.
6. Have you ever been **absolved** of guilt? That means that the guilt that was attached to you in other people's minds has been loosened (*solv*) and removed away (*ab*).
7. Have you ever encountered the two terms **pathos** and **bathos**? Pathos is the ability of a creative work to arouse a feeling (*path*) of sympathy or pity. If this emotion is overemphasized, too deep, or inappropriately deep (*bath*), we then call it bathos. Bathos is a too-deep pathos, an unrespectable sentimentality in a creative work.
8. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

prevent : prevenir
impulse : impulso
nucleus : nucleo
montane : montañoso
accumulate : acumular
hibernate : hibernar
aggravate : agravar
glaucoma : glaucoma



The tortoise-shell lyre was held upright when played.

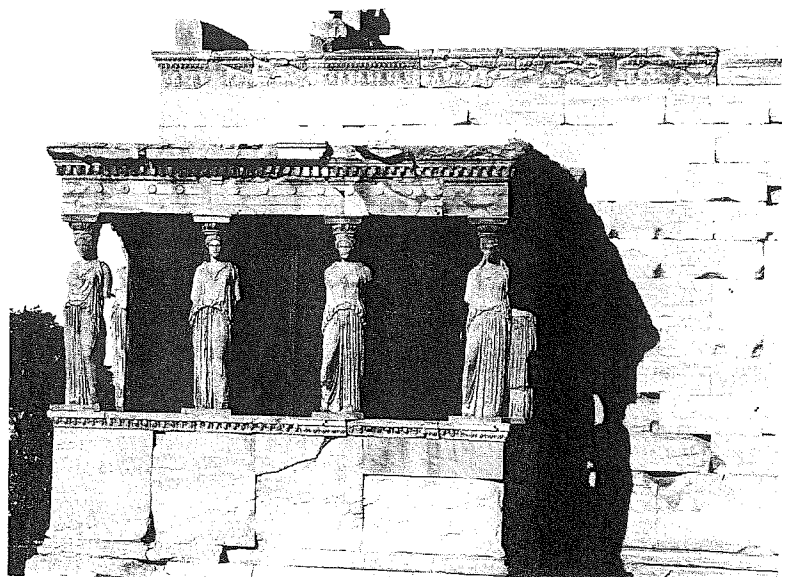
The Word Within the Word • List #20

mela	<i>(black)</i>	melanin, melanite, melancholy, Melanesia, melanoma, melanocyte	<i>Greek</i>
vice	<i>(in place of)</i>	vice versa, vice president, vice consul, viceroy, vice-regent	<i>Latin</i>
foli	<i>(leaf)</i>	folio, foliolate, bifoliolate, foliation, defoliate, portfolio, folium	<i>Latin</i>
atom	<i>(vapor or particle)</i>	atomic, atomizer, atomize, atomism, subatomic, diatomic	<i>Greek</i>
orb	<i>(circle)</i>	orbit, exorbitant, orbital, orbicular, orbital decay, supraorbital	<i>Latin</i>
multi	<i>(many)</i>	multifarious, multitudinous, multilateral, multiped, multiply	<i>Latin</i>
ign	<i>(fire)</i>	ignite, igneous, ignis fatuus, ignition, reignite, ignescent, ignitron	<i>Latin</i>
moll	<i>(soft)</i>	mollify, emollient, mollusk, mollescent	<i>Latin</i>
lin	<i>(line)</i>	linear, delineate, lineation, lineal, rectilinear, lineage	<i>Latin</i>
hemi	<i>(half)</i>	hemisphere, hemialgia, hemiplegia, hemipterous, hemicrania	<i>Greek</i>
oo	<i>(egg)</i>	oophyte, oocyte, oology, oogenesis, oogonium, oophorectomy, oospore	<i>Greek</i>
grade	<i>(step)</i>	gradual, grading, retrograde, downgrade, gradualism, degrading	<i>Latin</i>
pneumo	<i>(lung or air)</i>	pneumogastric, pneumonia, pneumonectomy, pneumobacillus	<i>Greek</i>
radi	<i>(ray)</i>	radiation, radian, radial, radiolarian, radiance, irradiate	<i>Latin</i>
oscu	<i>(mouth)</i>	osculum, osculation, osculant, osculate	<i>Latin</i>
ob	<i>(against)</i>	obloquy, objurgation, obdurate, obsequious, oblique, obsolete, obstinate	<i>Latin</i>
vect	<i>(carry)</i>	convection, vector, invective, vectorial	<i>Latin</i>
digit	<i>(finger)</i>	prestidigitation, digital, digitation	<i>Latin</i>
gymno	<i>(naked)</i>	gymnasium, gymnastics, gymnosperm, gymnosophist	<i>Greek</i>
plasm	<i>(form)</i>	cytoplasm, endoplasm, ectoplasm, plasma, plasmodium	<i>Greek</i>
narco	<i>(sleep)</i>	narcotic, narcolepsy, narcotine, narcotism	<i>Greek</i>
vermi	<i>(worm)</i>	vermin, vermicelli, vermicide, vermivorous	<i>Latin</i>
lign	<i>(wood)</i>	lignite, lignify, ligneous, lignocellulose	<i>Latin</i>
dendr	<i>(tree)</i>	dendrology, dendroid, dendrochronology, dendrite, rhododendron	<i>Greek</i>
lachry	<i>(tear)</i>	lachrymose, lachrymatory, lachrymal	<i>Latin</i>

The Word Within the Word • Notes #20

1. The **Mollusca** are a large phylum of invertebrates named after their soft (*moll*) bodies. The **Mollusks** include such creatures as snails, squids, and octopi. We use the same stem in the word **mollify**. If a person has fierce anger, **obdurate** anger, then we try to make (*fy*) soft (*moll*) the anger that has hardened (*dur*) against (*ob*) us.
2. A **Micropoem**: Public blame and disgrace is sometimes called **obloquy**. Obloquy is horrible to experience, as the word implies: to suffer the obloquy of society is to have everyone talk (*loquy*) against (*ob*) you.
3. **Objurgation**, like obloquy, is bitterly unpleasant to receive. To be objurgated is to be berated, to be violently denounced, to be actually sworn (*jur*) against (*ob*).
4. If you are asked to **delineate** the options, don't drag out every fact and detail you know. Just give a precise summary, an outline. Put the lines (*lin*) down (*de*) without painting in the minutia.
5. Archeologists studying Indian ruins in the American Southwest can often date a site to the exact year by using **dendrochronology**, or tree ring dating. Tree rings form a pattern: thick rings in wet years and thin rings in dry years. A careful examination of ring patterns has shown that trees (*dendro*) contain a record of time (*chron*) that can be used to study (*logy*) the past.
6. The circular (*orb*) paths that satellites follow around the earth are called **orbits**. Unfortunately, a satellite will not permanently follow the path it is placed in. **Orbital decay** refers to the gradual slowing and eventual falling of a satellite as a result of friction from the sparse molecules in the earth's upper atmosphere. Notice that **decay** literally means down/fall (*de*: down, *cad*: fall).
7. An **exorbitant** price is one that is outrageously high, unrealistic, completely out (*ex*) of the sphere (*orb*) of reason. It is a price that has escaped the gravity of sense that held it down to earth; it is out of **orbit**, off by itself.
8. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

vice versa : vice versa
atomic : atómico
delineate : delinear
hemisphere : hemisferio
irradiate : irradiar
oblique : obliquo
obstinate : obstinado
digital : digital
gymnasium : gimnasio



The Caryatid South Porch of the Erechtheion

The Word Within the Word • List #21

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

The Word Within the Word • Notes #21

1. A **Micropoem**: Why does **equivocate** mean to hedge? Just as a hedge marks the point between two fields, a person who wishes not to answer a question can take the mid-point, giving equal (*equi*) voice (*voc*) to both sides of the issue. Someone who praises both camps in a dispute is equivocating.
2. Fault-finding comments are called **captious** because they are designed to catch (*capt*: take) you. They are full (*ous*) of catches (*capt*).
3. **Specious** does mean false, but not everything false is specious. Contrast **specious** with **veracious**. The veracious statement is full of truth, but the specious statement is full of (*ous*) looks (*spec*)! It is a good-looking false statement.
4. **Magnanimous** means great-minded, not in the sense of great intelligence, but in the sense of greatness of spirit. Magnanimity is generosity, nobility of mind. Contrast **magnanimous** with **pusillanimous**—small-minded.
5. **Commensurate** refers to the way two things can be in or out of scale with each other, and it implies that they should be in scale. If we take on a big job, we want a big reward, not a small one. We expect our reward to be commensurate with our task. The two things should measure (*mens*) together (*co*).
6. **Excoriate** is not made of *ex* and *cor* (heart). It is made of *ex* and the Latin *corium*, meaning skin. To excoriate someone is, verbally, to skin them alive!
7. Before a motor company builds 200,000 new cars, it first (*proto*) makes a model and tests it. A **prototype** is a preliminary model built for testing and consideration. Once final decisions have been made, the company can proceed with full-scale production.
8. Why do we call a human beginner a **neophyte** (new plant)? We use the word **neophyte** in a metaphorical way. A beginner in the art world is like a baby plant that has just broken out of its seed and put forth little leaves. A neophyte in the art world is a brand new “baby” artist.

9. Ten Pronunciation Tips

superfluous - soo PER flu ous

specious - SPEE shus

neophyte - neo FIGHT

xenophobia - zee no FO bee ah

magnanimous - mag NAN i muss

malevolence - ma LEV o lence

equivocate - ee KWIV o kate

omniscient - om NISH unt

incredulous - in KRED yoo luss

10. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

equivocate : equivocar

superfluous : superfluo

bilateral : bilateral

unilateral : unilateral

malevolence : malevolencia

neophyte : neofita

bellicose : belicoso

anthropomorphic : antropomórfico

malediction : maldición

incredulous : incrédulo

omniscient : omnisciente

prototype : prototipo

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.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #22

1. Why do we call an easy, lucrative job a **sinecure**? Because it is a job without (*sine*) care (*cur*). There is not much to worry about in a sinecure; you just go and pick up your check.
2. **Depose** means topple from power. The image is one of a person in a high position who is forcefully put (*pos*) down (*de*) where he belongs (we hope).
3. The **adherents** of a policy stick (*here*) to (*ad*) it. They are the stickers-on.
4. Why does **abjure** mean renounce? Well, sometimes we have to change our minds and renounce something we have previously sworn to support. We might previously have sworn it to us, but now we have to swear (*jur*) it away (*ab*).
5. An **egregious** act is a publicly outrageous one, done out (*ex*) before the group (*greg*).
6. The **intractable** person is stubborn and can not (*in*) be pulled (*tract*) from his position. He is not-pullable.
7. **Perspicuous** means brilliantly clear because what is clear can be seen (*spec*) through (*per*). A perspicuous essay is full of see-throughness.
8. A **Micropoem**: A **discursive** speech is rambling because it runs (*curs*) away (*dis*) from its topic. It is a runaway speech.
9. What is innocent or naive about the **ingenuous** person? If someone is ingenuous, that person has yet to be changed by the cruel world. The sincere and trusting ingenuous soul is still in (*in*) original (*gen*) condition.
10. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**
 - diaphanous - dye AFF anous
 - egregious - ee GREE juss
 - perspicuous - per SPICK yoo uss
 - circumlocution - circum lo KYOO shun
 - sinecure - SIN uh cure
 - somniferous - som NIF erous
 - ichthyologist - ick thee OL o jist
 - soliloquy - so LILL o kwuy
 - analgesic - an al JEE zik
11. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

polyglot : políglota
diaphanous : diáfano
soliloquy : soliloquio
egomania : egomanía
analgesic : analgésico

oligarchy : oligarquía
intransigent : intransigente
ingenuous : ingenuo
somniferous : somnífero

The Word Within the Word • List #23

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

The Word Within the Word • Notes #23

1. Not every corrupt politician is a **demagogue**. A demagogue is a politician who leads—if you can call it that—through corrupt means: by telling people only what they want to hear, and by appealing to their prejudices. The demagogue often leads (*agog*) people (*demo*) by appealing to their basest instincts.
2. **A Micropoem:** To **preclude** an option is to prevent it in advance, to act so as not even to have a choice, to close (*clud*) that door beforehand (*pre*).
3. **Ethnocentrism** is the idea that your own group (*ethno*) is the metaphorical center (*centri*), and all other groups circle in inferior orbits around you. As human beings, we have a natural preference for the customs we know, and this sometimes gives rise to an illogical corollary: that the customs of other groups are not as good as our own. Anthropologists report that virtually all human groups exhibit some form of ethnocentrism.
4. A teacher is a leader (*agog*) of children (*ped*), a **pedagogue**.
5. When Galileo **recanted** his heliocentric views, he sang (*cant*) a different tune (*re*).
6. **Incisive** comments are sharp because they cut (*cise*) in (*in*) to the issue.
7. An **anomaly** is a special kind of abnormality. It is something so unusual that it is not (*an*) the same (*homo*). It is an an-homo-ly.
8. Why do we call a word made out of initials an **acronym**? It uses the tip (*acro*) of the name (*nym*).

N	A	T	O
North	Atlantic	Treaty	Organization

9. **A Micropoem:** Why do we refer to limited options as **circumscribed**? When choices are circumscribed, a line has been drawn (*scrib*) around (*circum*) the proper choices, and you have to stay within the line. These things inside of the line you may do; the things outside of the line you may not.
10. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**

loquacious - low KWAY shuss	preclude - pree KLOOD
enumerate - ee NOO merate	tangible - TANJ ible
prescience - PRESS shence	egocentric - ee go CENT ric
androgynous - an DROJ enous	disputatious - dis pyoo TAY shuss
cacophony - kah KOFF ony	
11. **Spanish Cognates:** One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

egocentric : egocéntrico
 tangible : tangible
 demagogue : demagogo
 cryptologist : criptólogo
 enumerate : enumerar

ethnocentrism : etnocentrismo
 pedagogue : pedagogo
 revoke : revocar
 incisive : incisivo
 intercede : interceder

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 • Notes #24

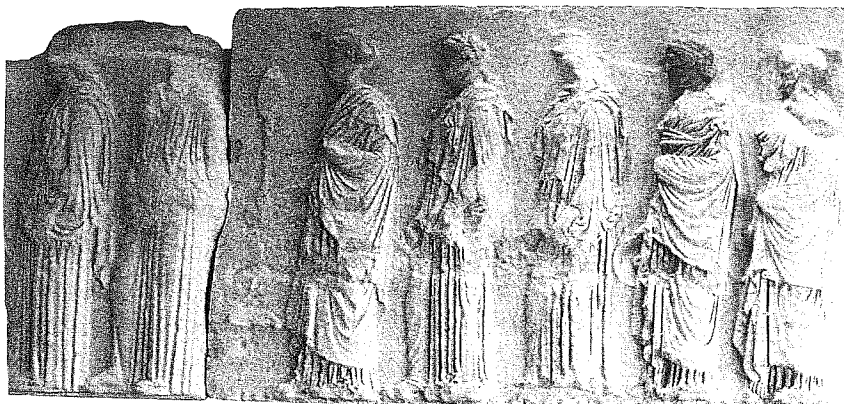
1. A person who seeks **retribution** seeks to pay (*trib*) back (*re*) someone who has wronged him. The revenge is the payback.
2. The **punctilious** person is so correct in proper conduct that he is full of (*ous*) attention to every single point (*punct*).
3. A **Micropoem**: **Elucidate** means to explain, to cast light (*luc*) out (*ex*) on the matter. Elucidation is a fine task for a luminary.
4. A person's **eccentricities** are behaviors that are way out, that are out (*ex*) from the normal center (*centri*) of things.
5. An **epigram** is a witty comment (*gram*) on (*epi*) a certain matter.

6. Ten Pronunciation Tips

elucidate - ee LOOSE ih date
diffident - DIFF ident
sommambulist - som NAM byoo list
irrevocable - ir re VOK able
punctilious - punk TILL ee us
stringent - STRIN jent
supersede - super SEED
sanguinary - SANG win ary
cognizant - COG ni zant

7. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

retribution : retribución
irrevocable : irrevocable
eccentricity : ecentricidad
pandemonium : pandemonio
urbane : urbano
sanguinary : sanguinario
inanimate : inanimado
android : androide
advocate : advocar
condescend : condescender
collateral : colateral
anthropoid : antroipoide



This is part of the Parthenon frieze showing the procession.

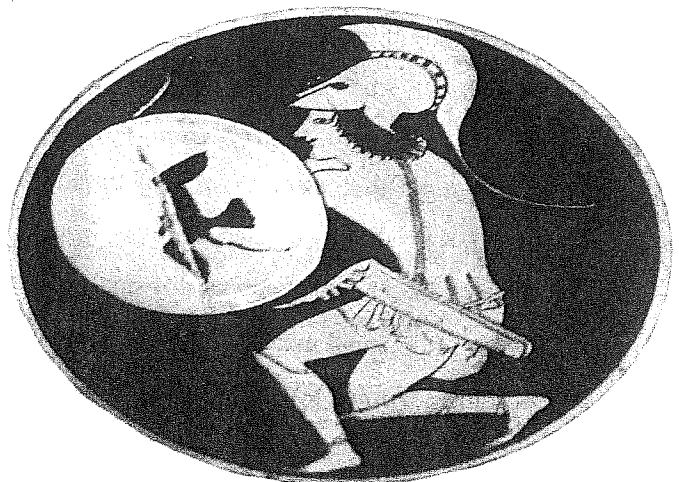
The Word Within the Word • List #25

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.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #25

1. A **benefactor** is a person who does (*fac*) good (*bene*) to someone else. In Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*, the young Pip is assisted in life by an anonymous benefactor who—to Pip's initial horror—turns out to be an escaped convict Pip had helped when Pip was just a young lad.
2. A **Micropoem: Introspective** means inward-looking, but especially in a metaphorical sense. A person can be introspective in the sense of being mentally inward-looking—into himself.
3. **Dissonant** sounds are inharmonious because the sounds do not go together. Sounds which harmonize go together, whereas sounds which are dissonant clash; they are away (*dis*) from each other. If the brass section plays in the key of C, the woodwinds must not play in the key of D. (Not, at least, until they attempt 20th century experimental compositions!) **Dissonance** is more of a clashing sound, whereas **cacophony** could refer to most any unpleasant noise.
4. In the madness (*mania*) called **megalomania**, the victim thinks of himself as larger (*mega*) than life—as more important than he really is. You sometimes hear the terms Napoleon-complex or Caesar-complex to refer to megalomania.
5. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**
 - vivacious - vie VAY shuss
 - surfeit - SURR fit
 - pellucid - pel LOOSE id
 - amour-propre - amoor PRO prah
 - exculpate - EX cull pate
 - megalomania - megalo MAY nee ah
 - heliotropic - helio TRO pic
 - cognoscenti - cog no SEN tee
 - euphemism - YOO fe mism
6. **Spanish Cognates:** One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

introspective : introspectivo
intervene : intervenir
syndrome : síndrome
subordinate : subordinar
dissonant : disonante
credible : creíble
euphemism : eufemismo
benefactor : benefactor
magnate : magnate
octagenarian : octagenario
narcolepsy : narcolepsia



An archer is depicted on this cylix.

The Word Within the Word • List #26

delineate	<i>(to outline)</i>	He will quickly delineate the options.
emollient	<i>(softener)</i>	The ancient Greeks used creamy emollient for their skin.
retrograde	<i>(backward)</i>	The planet seems to move in a retrograde motion.
melancholy	<i>(dark sadness)</i>	Some people feel a black melancholy on rainy days.
intracranial	<i>(within the skull)</i>	Intracranial surgery will not exorcise her demons.
cardiovascular	<i>(of the heart and vessels)</i>	You need cardiovascular exercise.
epiphany	<i>(revelation)</i>	The epiphany was a flash, a sudden appearance of insight.
histology	<i>(study of living tissues)</i>	The classic histology textbook was out of print.
perihelion	<i>(orbital point nearest the sun)</i>	The planet reached perihelion.
inherent	<i>(built-in)</i>	Americans possess an inherent right to free speech.
plutocracy	<i>(government of the wealthy)</i>	Is the nation controlled by plutocrats?
sine qua non	<i>(essential element)</i>	Money was the <i>sine qua non</i> for acceptance.
corpulent	<i>(full-bodied)</i>	His corpulence was caused by his gluttony.
dichotomy	<i>(two-part division)</i>	The right/wrong dichotomy seemed simplistic.
pathological	<i>(diseased)</i>	The fascist dictator was a pathological liar.
cryptic	<i>(having hidden meaning)</i>	We found a cryptic inscription in the stone.
isosceles	<i>(having two equal sides)</i>	He drew an isosceles trapezoid on the board.
pathogen	<i>(disease-causer)</i>	The team's careful search did not locate the pathogen.
vociferous	<i>(loudly-voiced)</i>	His vociferous protests could be heard for blocks.
rectify	<i>(correct)</i>	Please take steps to rectify the situation and make it right.
sanctimonious	<i>(affectedly holy)</i>	His sanctimonious lectures were hypocritical.
tortuous	<i>(twisting)</i>	The tortuous mountain highway wound steeply up.
rectilinear	<i>(right-angled)</i>	Do you like the building's rectilinear architecture?
metamorphosis	<i>(change of shape)</i>	The insect's metamorphosis was miraculous.
petroglyph	<i>(rock carving)</i>	The prehistoric petroglyph was high on the cave wall.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #26

1. *Peri* and *apo* often are used to make opposites: **perihelion** and **aphelion**, **perigee** and **apogee**. Perihelion is the orbital point nearest (*peri*) the sun (*helio*), whereas aphelion is the orbital point away (*apo*) from the sun (*helio*). Perigee is the orbital point nearest (*peri*) the earth (*geo*).
2. A **pathogen** is a disease-causer because it originates (*gen*) disease (*patho*).
3. In ancient Greece, people referred to the appearance or manifestation of a god as an *epipháneia*. Today we might not have Apollo or Dionysus suddenly appear to us, but we might have a revelation, a revealing, a flash, a sudden appearance (*phan*) not of a god but of insight. This experience is an **epiphany**.
4. We **rectify** something wrong when we correct it, when we make (*fy*) it right (*rect*).
5. A **Micropoem**: In a **dichotomy**, things are cut (*tomy*) in two (*dicho*). Some see a dichotomized world in which everything is either/or: right or wrong, good or bad, communist or noncommunist, art or not art, American or un-American, and so forth. Others regard some dichotomies as oversimplifications.
6. The **sine qua non** is the thing *without-which-not*. If you have the *sine qua non*, then that is a good start. It is the essential element that must be present.
7. The **sanctimonious** person is full of (*ous*) holiness (*sanct*), but too full. Sanctimoniousness is arrogantly and pretentiously taking on airs of superior holiness which one does not merit.

8. Ten Pronunciation Tips

melancholy - MELL an koll ee
corpulent - KORP yoo lent
isosceles - eye SOSS uh leez
sine qua non - SIN eh kwa nahn
plutocracy - ploo TOCK ra see
perihelion - per ih HEE lee un
intracranial - intra KRAY nee al
emollient - ee MOLL yent
sanctimonious - sank tih MO nee us

9. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

delineate : delinear
retrograde : retrograda
melancholy : melancolía
intracranial : intracranial
cardiovascular : cardiovascular
epiphany : epifanía

inherent : inherente
corpulent : corpulento
dichotomy : dicotomía
rectify : rectificar
petroglyph : petroglífico
metamorphosis : metamorfosis

The Word Within the Word • List #27

chronic	<i>(lasting)</i>	His chronic illness dragged on for years.
hyperbole	<i>(overstatement)</i>	His colorful hyperbole livened his conversation.
sonorous	<i>(full-sounding)</i>	Dr. King's sonorous voice echoed over the crowd.
germane	<i>(related)</i>	Her germane comments really hit the mark.
convivial	<i>(jovial, festive)</i>	His convivial friends loved to celebrate.
cognomen	<i>(nickname)</i>	His cognomen is "Sterno."
anarchist	<i>(one against government)</i>	The anarchist passed out leaflets to passersby.
animadversion	<i>(criticism)</i>	Your animadversions on his behavior are superfluous.
pusillanimous	<i>(small-minded)</i>	The deliberate snub was a low, pusillanimous act.
subterfuge	<i>(evasive dodge)</i>	The mayor ducked a question with a clever subterfuge.
saturnine	<i>(gloomy and remote)</i>	Her saturnine personality won her few friends.
luminary	<i>(enlightening person)</i>	We met the amiable luminary Carl Sagan.
exorbitant	<i>(unreasonable)</i>	Their exorbitant prices are in an orbit of their own.
expatriate	<i>(banish)</i>	They were forcefully expatriated from the fatherland.
filigree	<i>(lacy design)</i>	The delicate filigree around the diamond was beautiful.
eulogy	<i>(words of praise)</i>	The reverend delivered a moving eulogy at the funeral.
sedentary	<i>(sitting)</i>	Flagpole sitting is a highly sedentary occupation.
euphoria	<i>(joy)</i>	Their love brought them a blissful euphoria.
bonhomie	<i>(good-naturedness)</i>	He was a popular fellow of appealing bonhomie.
bona fide	<i>(good faith)</i>	The company will make a bona fide offer.
bon vivant	<i>(indulger in luxury)</i>	The wealthy <i>bon vivant</i> lived the good life.
mutable	<i>(changeable)</i>	The mutable laws of high fashion can't be predicted.
impute	<i>(attribute discredit)</i>	It is unnecessary to impute evil motives to opponents.
status quo	<i>(the present state)</i>	It can be dangerous to disrupt the status quo.
paradigm	<i>(model)</i>	The incident offers an instructive paradigm for future guidance.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #27

1. **Convivial** people are jovial because they are like Jove—they are festive and love to celebrate with their friends. It is times of life (*viv*) together (*con*) which they relish.
2. A **Micropoem**: A trick used to evade a question, dodge a question, or duck a question is known as a **subterfuge**. We use the trick to duck: to flee (*fug*) under (*sub*) the question.
3. Why do we call a gloomy and remote personality **saturnine**? Because it is Saturn-like; Saturn is distant from us and far from the warmth of the sun.
4. A **bon vivant** is an indulger in luxury, an enjoyer, a person who luxuriates in the good (*bon*) life (*viv*).
5. A **paradigm** is a mental model, a pattern. It is an example that one may imitate. The idea lies in the stem *para* (beside). When one has two things side by side, both the copy and the model to copy, then it is easier to follow the pattern. We might say that someone's quick response in a time of crisis is a paradigm for future imitation, and we then pattern our behavior after that model. Physical models, such as airplane models or boat models, are not referred to as paradigms.
6. The **status quo** is the state which exists at present.
7. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**

chronic - KRON ik
pusillanimous - pyoo sill ANN ih muss
bonhomie - bohn oh MEE
bona fide - bo nah FIDE ee
mutable - MYOO tah bul
subterfuge - SUB turr fyooj
bon vivant - bohn vee VAHN
paradigm - PAR ah dime
germane - jur MAIN

8. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

chronic : crónico
hyperbole : hipérbole
anarchist : anarquista
luminary : luminaria
exorbitant : exorbitante
expatriate : expatriar
eulogy : eulogía
sedentary : sedentario
euphoria : euforia
bona fide : bona fide
status quo : status quo
paradigm : paradigma



Apollo pours a libation. On his lap is a lyre.

The Word Within the Word • List #28

schism	<i>(division)</i>	The debate created a schism in the Democratic party.
bootless	<i>(useless)</i>	His bootless effort to win acceptance was pathetic.
rubicund	<i>(red)</i>	Her rubicund cheeks matched her rosy outlook.
apotheosis	<i>(raising to god status)</i>	The media created the champ's apotheosis.
precursor	<i>(forerunner)</i>	The rumblings were the precursor of what was to come.
transpose	<i>(switch)</i>	Dyslexics sometimes transpose letters in a word.
invective	<i>(bitter denunciation)</i>	She endured her opponent's scathing invective.
prestidigitation	<i>(sleight of hand)</i>	Presto! The magician's prestidigitation was fun.
cosmology	<i>(study of the universe)</i>	The origin of atoms is a cosmological question.
effusion	<i>(outpouring)</i>	His effusion of joyful greetings made us wince.
anthology	<i>(literary collection)</i>	The anthology contains the flowers of modern poetry.
posthumous	<i>(after death)</i>	It was bittersweet to present a posthumous award.
euphony	<i>(beautiful sound)</i>	He loved the euphony of the wind in the trees.
refractory	<i>(stubborn)</i>	The refractory child broke and rebroke the rules.
platitude	<i>(flat, trite remark)</i>	We need fresh ideas, not hollow platitudes.
acrophobia	<i>(fear of heights)</i>	He began to feel acrophobia in elevators.
agoraphobia	<i>(fear of openness)</i>	Some visitors feel agoraphobia in Red Square.
veracity	<i>(truthfulness)</i>	Slowly, we began to question her veracity.
verisimilitude	<i>(similarity to truth)</i>	Notice the fable's eerie verisimilitude.
idiosyncrasy	<i>(peculiarity)</i>	We even loved his many idiosyncrasies.
alumni	<i>(graduates)</i>	The college alumni wrote to the missing alumnus.
casus belli	<i>(cause for war)</i>	The government chose to regard the act as <i>casus belli</i> .
interregnum	<i>(time between rulers)</i>	The nation enjoyed a peaceful interregnum.
infraction	<i>(breaking)</i>	It was an unintentional infraction of the rules.
condign	<i>(worthy)</i>	He will receive a condign punishment for his offense.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #28

1. **Apotheosis** is raising someone up (*apo*) to the status of a god (*theo*) or near-god. We use the word to describe what happens to, for example, American Olympic gold medal winners. We could use **apoteosis** ironically to refer to a poet whose reputation has risen to the point that it is not wise to criticize his work.
2. We use **effusion** to refer to excessive and often unpleasant demonstrations of feeling. We might refer to effusive greetings that are not reciprocal.
3. **A Micropoem**: An **anthology** is a literary collection. The word **anthology** is a metaphor that suggests that an anthology is a study (*logy*) of the flowers (*antho*) of literature or poetry. As flowers are picked selectively, so works are included in an anthology according to selective criteria that vary from anthology to anthology.
4. **Refractory** and **infraction** make an interesting pair. If an infraction is a breaking of the rule, then a refractory child is one guilty of repeated (*re*) breaking (*fract*) of the rule. **Refractory** implies a stubborn incorrigibility.
5. We find **rubicund** most often as an adjective describing the face: cheeks are rubicund.
6. The adjective **condign** is generally applied to punishments and just desserts. We do not usually apply it to worthy rewards. Villains meet their condign ends.

10. Ten Pronunciation Tips

schism - SIZZ um
apoteosis - ah pah thee OH sis
verisimilitude - ver ih sih MILL itude
interregnum - in ter REG num
condign - con DINE
casus belli - kay suss BELL eye
posthumous - POSS chu muss
agoraphobia - agora FOE bee ah
euphony - YOO fo nee

11. **Spanish Cognates**: One of the most important observations to gain from the study of the etymology of English vocabulary is that English and Spanish share thousands of words that are cognates—related words—that have common origins. Often, the English and the Spanish word share not only a stem, but even more than one stem, and often in the same order. As examples, here are some English words from this lesson and their Spanish cognates:

apoteosis : apoteosis
precursor : precursor
cosmology : cosmología
anthology : antología
posthumous : póstumo
acrophobia : acrofobia
agoraphobia : agorafobia
veracity : veracidad
verisimilitude : verisimilitud
idiosyncrasy : idiosincrasia
euphony : eufonía

The Word Within the Word • List #29

colloquy	<i>(conversation)</i>	They had a private colloquy in the corner.
viable	<i>(able to live)</i>	Is the fetus mature enough to be viable?
synopsis	<i>(summary)</i>	Here is a brief synopsis of the course.
terra firma	<i>(solid ground)</i>	The argonauts longed to stand on <i>terra firma</i> at last.
sanction	<i>(authorize)</i>	We cannot sanction the use of our name.
Russophobe	<i>(one who fears Russia)</i>	The editor was an unapologetic Russophobe.
prognosis	<i>(medical forecast)</i>	The doctor presented a prognosis of the disease.
polychrome	<i>(many-colored)</i>	We purchased a large polychrome sculpture.
philanthropy	<i>(love of mankind)</i>	Her deeds of philanthropy were legendary.
perspicacity	<i>(insight)</i>	Everyone admired the perspicacity of her mind.
mobocracy	<i>(mob rule)</i>	The text showed the mobocracy of the revolution.
gerontocracy	<i>(government of the old)</i>	The Soviet gerontocracy is losing control.
magniloquence	<i>(great eloquence)</i>	His magniloquent oratory was impressive.
kleptomaniac	<i>(pathological thief)</i>	The police tried to arrest a kleptomaniac.
joie de vivre	<i>(joy of living)</i>	Her joie de vivre was inspiring.
in loco parentis	<i>(in place of parents)</i>	The school must act <i>in loco parentis</i> .
mundane	<i>(worldly)</i>	The thinker was reluctant to deal with mundane matters.
synthesis	<i>(combination)</i>	This product represents a synthesis of many ideas.
unequivocal	<i>(direct)</i>	He gave a refreshing, unequivocal answer.
nihilism	<i>(belief in nothing)</i>	The icy nihilism of his mind could be unnerving.
audiophile	<i>(stereo buff)</i>	He reads a magazine for audiophiles.
entomology	<i>(insect zoology)</i>	The oft-bitten entomologist finally caught the beetle.
omnifarious	<i>(of all kinds)</i>	His omnifarious exploits earned him fame.
invidious	<i>(causing envy)</i>	He paid one of them an invidious compliment.
deduction	<i>(reasoning down from principles)</i>	Deductive reasoning is idealistic.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #29

1. A **synopsis** of a course is a summary, a paper that presents a look (*opia*) at the whole course together (*syn*).
2. We can land on *terra firma* with our boats, but we can also land on intellectual *terra firma*. It is tragic when erroneous opinions are quickly based on loose facts which prove not to provide intellectual solid ground.
3. When we **sanction** something, we authorize it, or approve it, or make it holy (*sanct*).
4. A **prognosis** is a medical forecast of a disease; it is the attempt to know (*gno*) in advance (*pro*) what course the disease will follow.
5. **Philanthropy** is made of stems that mean love of mankind, but actually we use **philanthropy** not to refer to someone's feelings about people, but to the act of doing generous things to help mankind. Wealthy philanthropists donate libraries and art galleries to communities.
6. **Perspicacity** is similar to **perspicuous**, except that **perspicuous** refers to the product of someone's mind: a **perspicuous** essay, whereas **perspicacity** refers to the mind itself: a **perspicacious** mind.
7. **Unequivocal** reminds us of **equivocate**. To equivocate is to hedge by positioning oneself in the middle, like a hedge between two fields. To be unequivocal is therefore to take sides, to go clearly into the left field or the right field. The unequivocal politician often can gain passionate support (and opposition), whereas the equivocating politician often can gain victory.
8. A **Micropoem**: **Invidious** praise causes envy by leaving someone else unpraised—the unpraised outsider winds up on the outside looking (*vid*) in (*in*) enviously.

9. Ten Pronunciation Tips

perspicacity - purr spih KASS ih tee
magniloquence - mag NIL oh kwence
joie de vivre - JWAH du vee vruh
nihilism - NI ill ism
invidious - in VID ee uss
philanthropy - fill AN thro py
synopsis - sin OPP sis
viable - VI able
colloquy - KOLL o kwee

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viable : viable
synopsis : sinopsis
polychrome : policromo
philanthropy : filantropía
perspicacious : perspicaz
kleptomaniac : cleptómano

mundane : mundano
synthesis : síntesis
unequivocal : inequívoco
nihilism : nihilismo
invidious : invidioso
deduction : deducción

The Word Within the Word • List #30

induction	<i>(factual reasoning)</i>	Science uses a process of induction.
hagiocracy	<i>(government of saints)</i>	The Iranian hagiocracy banned swimsuits.
diction	<i>(word choice)</i>	The pedant confined himself to a scholarly Latin diction.
disconsolate	<i>(inconsolable)</i>	The disconsolate widower missed his best friend.
disingenuous	<i>(insincere)</i>	His disingenuous offers of assistance fooled the ingenue.
fractious	<i>(unruly)</i>	The fractious, dissatisfied mob clamored for vengeance.
nondescript	<i>(of no category)</i>	The beggar wore a nondescript garment.
prolific	<i>(productive)</i>	The prolific writer wrote seven books in two years.
chronicle	<i>(a history)</i>	We read the chronicle of the brave knight-errant.
primeval	<i>(of the first ages)</i>	Coal is the remains of a primeval forest.
panegyric	<i>(elaborate eulogy)</i>	His speech was a panegyric on her engineering talent.
fidelity	<i>(faithfulness)</i>	He required the fierce fidelity of his lieutenants.
magnum opus	<i>(great work)</i>	Read Dante's magnum opus, the <i>Divina Comedia</i> .
antediluvian	<i>(from before the Flood!)</i>	He loved his grandfather's antediluvian ideas.
comport	<i>(behave)</i>	Leadership requires one to comport oneself with dignity.
insurgence	<i>(uprising)</i>	The insurgence was as soon defeated as it was begun.
expeditiously	<i>(rapidly)</i>	We need to process a customer's request expeditiously.
renovate	<i>(restore)</i>	It would be expensive to renovate the apartments.
carnage	<i>(butchery)</i>	They viewed the sickening carnage on the battlefield.
decadent	<i>(downfallen)</i>	The decadent, luxurious century saw little greatness in art.
supercilious	<i>(scornful)</i>	His arrogant, supercilious manner offended everyone.
inexorable	<i>(inescapable)</i>	Her inexorable fate followed her everywhere.
emissary	<i>(messenger)</i>	They greeted an emissary from the Queen.
improvident	<i>(without foresight)</i>	The improvident spendthrift went broke.
moribund	<i>(dying)</i>	The moribund corporation fired half its work force.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #30

1. **Induction** is different from **deduction**. In deduction we lead (*duct*) down (*de*) to true statements by starting from high principles, and in induction we lead (*duct*) facts into (*in*) the mind in order to form them into truths. In deduction we think downward from principle; in induction we bring facts in and think up from them.
2. An **ingenuous** person is innocent, naive, sincere. A **disingenuous** person is the opposite—experienced, deceptive, insincere. If the ingenuous person is original (*gen*) and fresh, the disingenuous person is certainly not.
3. A **nondescript** dog or a nondescript outfit is one which is indescribable because it belongs in no category. Notice that words depend upon categories. What kind of dog was it? Well, it was a...a.... What can you say about a dog that is NOT anything? It was a nondescript dog. Notice the stems: not (*non*) easily written (*script*) down (*de*).
4. A **Micropoem: Antediluvian** ideas are so outdated that they are from before (*ante*) the Flood (*diluvia*). THE Flood, you know. This word is deliberately humorous.
5. How does the word **comport** mean to behave? We often say that someone carries himself well. **Comport** is like that; the way you behave is the way you carry (*port*) yourself.
6. A **Micropoem: Supercilious** means scornful because it refers to the scornful, condescending raising (*super*) of the eyebrow (*cilia*) exhibited by the haughty person. When someone raises one eyebrow and looks at you down his nose, that is a supercilious gaze.

10. Ten Pronunciation Tips

panegyric - pan uh JIRR ik
inexorable - in EX or able
supercilious - super SILL ee uss
decadent - DECK ah dent
chronicle - KRON ick ul
hagiocracy - haje ee OCK rah see
primeval - prime EE val
antediluvian - antee di LOO vian
disingenuous - dis in JENN yoo uss

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diction : dicción
disconsolate : desconsolado
prolific : prolífico
chronicle : crónica
fidelity : fidelidad
renovate : renovar

insurgence : insurgencia
decadent : decadente
inexorable : inexorable
emissary : emisario
moribund : moribundo
induction : inducción