

Word	Usage Sentence	Origin	Pronunciation	Phonetic	Definition
eleemosynary	He used his vast fortune for establishing and funding a host of <i>eleemosynary</i> institutions	Latin	\,e-li-'mä-sə- ,ner-ē, -'mō-; - 'mä-zə-\	el-uh - mos-uh - ner-ee, - moz- , el-ee-uh -	of, relating to, or supported by charity
chiliad	Many people feared that widespread technical glitches would create chaos at the start of the new <i>chiliad</i> .	Greek	\'ki-lē-ˌad, -əd\	kil -ee-ad	a group of 1000
clepe	They <i>clepe</i> us drunkards and with swinish phrase soil our addition.	Old English	\'klep\	kleep	archaic : name, call
desuetude	Despite the long years of <i>desuetude</i> , the old manual typewriter seemed to work just fine	Latin	'de-swi-ˌtūd, - ,tyüd, di-'sü-ə-, - 'syü-	des -wi-tood, - tyood	discontinuance from use or exercise : disuse
interrobang, interabang	She decided to end her sentence with an <i>interrobang</i> .	Americanism	in-'ter-ə-ˌbaŋ	in- ter-uh -bang	a punctuation mark † designed for use especially at the end of an exclamatory rhetorical question
psittacine	Due to the popularity of <i>psittacine</i> birds as pets, a need exists for an understanding and further scientific study of their emotional needs.	Greek	'si-tə-ˌsīn	sit-uh -sahyn, - sin	of or relating to the parrots
yeuk	Eating peanuts makes me <i>yeuk</i> all over.	Old English	yük	yook	an itch (mainly Scottish)
telangiectasia	<i>Telangiectasia</i> is also known as spider veins.	New Latin	ˌte-lan-jē-ˌek- 'tä-zh(ē-)ə, ˌtē- tə-	tel-an-gi-ec-ta-si a	an abnormal dilation of red, blue, or purple superficial capillaries, arterioles, or venules typically localized just below the skin's surface (as of the face) — compare spider vein

cleidoic	The <i>cleidoic</i> nature of the egg protects it against contamination from the outside.	Greek	klī-'dō-ik	klahy- doh -ik	Of an egg: enclosed in a relatively impervious shell, which reduces free exchange with the environment
kinkajou	The <i>kinkajou</i> is a relative of the raccoon.	French	'kiŋ-kə- ,jü	king -kuh -joo	A nocturnal arboreal omnivorous mammal (<i>Potos flavus</i>) found from Mexico to South America that is related to the raccoon and has a long prehensile tail, large eyes, and yellowish brown fur
sesquipedalian	Racing is no place for a <i>sesquipedalian</i> announcer.	Latin	,ses-kwə-pə-'dāl- yən	ses-kwi-pi- dey -lee-uh n, - deyl -yuh n	1. Having many syllables 2. given to or characterized by the use of long words
satyagraha	Realizing that he needed a new term for his nonviolent campaign, Gandhi settled on " <i>satyagraha</i> ," which means "clinging to truth."	Sanskrit	\\(,)sə-'tyā-grə-hə, 'sə-tyə-\	suht -yuh -gruh-huh , suht -yah-gruh -	pressure for social and political reform through friendly passive resistance practiced by M. K. Gandhi and his followers in India
rijsttafel	Despite its popularity in the Netherlands and abroad, the <i>rijsttafel</i> is rarely found in Indonesia.	Dutch	'rīs- ,tä-fəl	rahys -tah-fuh l	an Indonesian meal consisting of rice and a variety of accompanying dishes (as meat, seafood, and vegetables)
appoggiatura	And, finally, where the <i>appoggiatura</i> cannot ascend, it cannot descend.	Italian	ə- ,pä-jə-'tūr-ə	uh -poj-uh - too r-uh , - tyoo r-uh ; Italian ahp-pawd-jah- too -rah	an embellishing note or tone preceding an essential melodic note or tone and usually written as a note of smaller size

otorhinolaryngology	A friend of mine specialized in pediatric <i>otorhinolaryngology</i> , but I've just never had any interest in diagnosing and treating noses.	Unknown	ˌɔt-ō-, rī-nō-, lar-ən-'gäl-ə-jē	oh-toh-rah-y-noh-lar-ing- gol-uh -jee	- medical specialty concerned especially with the ear, nose, and throat—called also otorhinolaryngology
cloisonné	There were many flowers in the room—some in <i>cloisonne</i> vases, others in gimcrack vessels such as are bought at country fairs.	French	ˌklɔi-zə-'nā, ˌklwä-	kloi- <i>zuh</i> - ney ; French klwa-zaw- ney	of, relating to, or being a style of enamel decoration in which the enamel is applied and fired in raised cells (as of soldered wires) on a usually metal background
vichyssoise	It is also versatile as a soup base; add watercress and you have watercress soup, or stir in cream and chill it for a <i>vichyssoise</i> .	French	ˌvi-shē-'swāz, ˌvē-	vish-ee- swahz , vee -shee-swahz	a soup typically made of pureed leeks or onions and potatoes, cream, and chicken stock and usually served cold
caoutchouc	The substance is said to consist of <i>caoutchouc</i> , gum, and mineral oil.	Amazonian Peru or Ecuador	'kaü-, chük, -chük, -, chü	kou-choo k, kou-chook	rubber
legerdemain	The reduction of the deficit is due in part to financial legerdemain that masks the true costs of running the government.	Middle French	ˌle-jər-də-'mān	lej-er- <i>duh</i> - meyn	1. sleight of hand 2. a display of skill or adroitness
quidnunc	With the arrival of our other friend, we at last had a quorum of <i>quidnuncs</i> and enough material to while away a long lunch hour.	Latin	'kwid-, nənjk	kwid -nuhngk	a person who seeks to know all the latest news or gossip : busybody
sangfroid	She displayed remarkable <i>sangfroid</i> when everyone else was panicking during the crisis.	French	'sä ⁿ -'f(r)wä	sahn- frwa	self-possession or imperturbability especially under strain

1. a mark " placed over a vowel to indicate that the vowel is pronounced in a separate syllable (as in naïve or Brontë)
2. the break in a verse caused by the coincidence of the end of a foot with the end of a word

diaeresis	The introduction of additional diacritical marks, such as the <i>diaeresis</i> to express consecutive vowels, may prove of service to foreign vowel sounds.	Greek	dī-'er-ə-səs, British also -'ir-	dahy- er-uh -sis	
perihelion	The temperature was hot, because the planet was at its <i>perihelion</i> .	New Latin, Greek	\,per-ə-'hēl-yən\ n	per-uh - hee -lee-uh n, - heel-yuh	the point in the path of a celestial body (as a planet) that is nearest to the sun
saccade	The large, dark eyes scanned her face in restless <i>saccades</i> .	Middle French	sa-'kād	sa- kahd , suh -	a small rapid jerky movement of the eye especially as it jumps from fixation on one point to another (as in reading)
lachrymose	the more <i>lachrymose</i> mourners at the funeral required a steady supply of tissues	Latin	\-,mōs\ n	lak-ruh -mohs	1. given to tears or weeping : tearful 2. tending to cause tears : mournful
psephology	If economics is the dismal science then <i>psephology</i> is little more than goat entrail fiddling necromancy.	Greek	\sē-'fä-lə-jē\ n	see- fol-uh -jee	the scientific study of elections
mondegreen	Steven Connor suggests that <i>mondegreens</i> are the result of the brain's constant attempts to make sense of the world by making assumptions to fill in the gaps when it cannot clearly determine what it is hearing.	Unknow n	\'män-də-,grēn\ n	mon -di-green	a word or phrase that results from a mishearing of something said or sung

	Conscious of his landlord's <i>atrabilious</i> temperament, Daniel knew to wait until the moment was right before asking for an extension on the rent.	Latin	\,a-trə-'bil-yəs\	a-truh - bil-yuh s	1. given to or marked by melancholy : gloomy 2. ill-natured, peevish
atrabilious					
	The soul, Aristotle defines as the first <i>entelechy</i> of the body.	Greek	\en-'te-lə-kē, in-\	en- tel-uh -kee	1. the actualization of form-giving cause as contrasted with potential existence 2. a hypothetical agency not demonstrable by scientific methods that in some vitalist doctrines is considered an inherent regulating and directing force in the development and functioning of an organism
entelechy					
	There is a turn for <i>persiflage</i> , a fear of ridicule among them.	Latin	\'pər-si-,flāzh, 'per-\	pur-suh -flahzh, pair-	frivolous bantering talk : light raillery
persiflage					
	Days are distinguished as solar, <i>sidereal</i> or lunar, according as the revolution is taken relatively to the sun, the stars or the moon.	Latin	\sī-'dir-ē-əl, sə-\	sahy- deer-ee-uh l	of, relating to, or expressed in relation to stars or constellations
sidereal					
	As the sigil of House Tyrell is a rose, the <i>sobriquet</i> is a play on her cunning and prickliness.	French	\'sō-bri-,kā, - ,ket, ,sō-bri-'\	soh-bruh -key, -ket, soh-bruh - key, -ket; French saw- bree-ke	a name or phrase that describes the character of someone or something
sobriquet					
	One of the most important internal senses is called <i>proprioception</i> , or position sense.	Latin	\,prō-prē-ō-'sep-shən\	proh-pree-uh - sep-shuh n	the reception of stimuli produced within the organism
proprioception					

The left side is the definiendum, the phrase whose meaning is explained by the definition; the right side is the definiens, the phrase that provides the explanation

an expression that defines : definition

definiens		Latin	\di-'fi-nē-,enz\	dih- fin -ee-uh nz	
	In fact she slipped and fell the last ten feet, her heart bounding into her throat as she toppled into <i>Stygian</i> blackness.	Greek	'sti-j(ē-)ən	stij -ee-uh n	extremely dark, gloomy, or forbidding : of or relating to the river Styx
inveigle	She <i>inveigled</i> him to write the letter.	Midieval Latin	in-'vā-gəl sometimes -'vē-	in- vey -guh l, - vee -	1. to win over by wiles : entice 2. to acquire by ingenuity or flattery : wangle <inveigled her way into a promotion>
sedulous	An impressively <i>sedulous</i> suitor, he was constantly sending her flowers and other tokens of his affection	Latin	'se-jə-ləs	sej -uh -luh s	1. involving or accomplished with careful perseverance <sedulous craftsmanship> 2. diligent in application or pursuit <a sedulous student>
contumacious	The judge threatened to charge the <i>contumacious</i> witness with contempt of court	Latin	ˌkän-tü-'mā-shəs, -tyü-', -chə'	kon-too- mey -shuh s, -tyoo-	stubbornly disobedient: rebellious
panegyric	She wrote a <i>panegyric</i> on the centennial of the Nobel laureate's birth	Greek	ˌpa-nə-'jir-ik, -'jī-rik	pan-i- jir -ik, - jahy -rik	a eulogistic oration or writing; also : formal or elaborate praise
pusillanimous	Nobody likes <i>pusillanimous</i> politicians who vote according to whichever way the political wind is blowing	Latin	-'la-nə-məs	pyoo-suh - lan -uh -muh s	1. lacking courage and resolution 2. marked by contemptible timidity

Laodicean	She adopted a <i>Laodicean</i> everybody-decide-for-himself attitude.	Latin	lā- ,ä-dä- 'sē-ən, ,lā-ō-dä-	ley-od-uh -see-uh n, ley-uh -duh -	lukewarm or indifferent in religion or politics
atelier	In a makeshift <i>atelier</i> in central Paris, amid racks of slinky evening dresses.	Latin	,a-təl-'yā	at-l-yey, at-l-yey; French <i>atuh</i> -lyey	1. an artist's or designer's studio or workroom 2. workshop
espial	He withdrew from his point of <i>espial</i>	Unknown	is-'pī(-ə)l	ih-spahy-uh l	1. observation 2. an act of noticing : discovery
peripeteia	A <i>peripeteia</i> swiftly turns a routine sequence of events into a story worth telling.	Greek	,per-ə-pə-'tē-ə, -'tī-	per-uh -pi-tahy-uh, -tee-uh	a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation especially in a literary work
misoneism	Philoneism may be nobler and more humane, but, unfortunately, it is only <i>misoneism</i> that is true.	Greek	,mi-sə-'nē-,i-zəm	mis-oh-nee-iz-uh m, mahy-soh-	a hatred, fear, or intolerance of innovation or change
pinyin	She couldn't read Chinese characters, so he wrote it in <i>pinyin</i> .	Chinese	'pin-'yin	pin-yin	a system for romanizing Chinese ideograms in which tones are indicated by diacritics and unaspirated consonants are transcribed as voiced
hafnium	Intel is building key portions of transistors in the chips from a material called <i>hafnium</i> instead of silicon dioxide, an industry mainstay since the 1960s	New Latin	'haf-nē-əm	haf-nee-uh m, haf-	a metallic element that resembles zirconium in its chemical properties, occurs especially in zirconium minerals, and readily absorbs neutrons
auscultation	<i>Auscultation</i> revealed a diminished respiratory murmur, and bronchial expiration in both lungs.	Latin	ō-skəl-'tā-shən	aw-skuh l-tye-shuh n	the act of listening to sounds arising within organs (as the lungs) as an aid to diagnosis and treatment

videlicet	The meaning of the Constitution is determined by one body, <i>videlicet</i> , the U.S. Supreme Court	Latin	və-'de-lə-,set, vī- ; vi-'dā-li-,ket	vi- del-uh -sit	that is to say; namely
seriatim	"All right", I said, "we shall take them in proper season and deal with them <i>seriatim</i> ".	Latin	'sīr-ē-'ā-təm, -'a-	seer-ee- ey -tim, ser-	in a series
imprimis	" <i>Imprimis</i> ," York began, with his pen on the lease form before him.	Latin	im-'prī-məs, - 'prē-	im- prahy -mis, - pree -	in the first place —used to introduce a list of items or considerations
dotterel	The <i>dotterel</i> (<i>Pluvialis morinellus</i>) is a little larger than a Blackbird.	Middle English	'dā-tə-rəl, 'dä- trəl	dot-er-uh l	a Eurasian plover (<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>) formerly common in England; also: any of various related plovers chiefly of eastern Asia, Australia, and South America
flocculent	The oil of winter-green was in a <i>flocculent</i> state at 56 degrees, and solid at 63 degrees.	Latin	'flä-kyə-lənt	flok-yuh-luh nt	1. resembling wool especially in loose fluffy organization 2. containing, consisting of, or occurring in the form of loosely aggregated particles or soft flakes
diurnal	"During the night colors are not visible, and there can be no doubt that the nocturnal moths, taken as a body, are much less gayly decorated than butterflies, all of which are <i>diurnal</i> in their habits."	Latin	dī-'ər-nəl	dahy- ur -nl	1. a. recurring every day <diurnal tasks> b. having a daily cycle <diurnal tides> 2. a. of, relating to, or occurring in the daytime <the city's diurnal noises> b. active chiefly in the daytime <diurnal animals> c. opening during the day and closing at night <diurnal flowers>

crwth	The instrument is well known to this day in Wales as the <i>crwth</i> .	Welsh	'krüth	krooth	an ancient Celtic stringed instrument that is plucked or bowed
antonomasia	Oftentimes, <i>antonomasia</i> is used to call attention to a certain characteristic	Greek	an-tə-nō-'mā-zh(ē-)ə, (,)an-,tä-nə-	an-tuh-nuh-mey-zhuh	the use of a proper name to designate a member of a class (as a Solomon for a wise ruler); also: the use of an epithet or title in place of a proper name (as the Bard for Shakespeare)
borborygmus	It is knotted and lumpy to the touch and a <i>borborygmus</i> is heard within it.	Greek	'bör-bə-'rig-məs	bawr-buh-rig-muh s	intestinal rumbling caused by moving gas
quiescent	They are <i>quiescent</i> ; other people can jump about like grasshoppers.	Latin	/kwi'əs ənt, kwai-/	kwee-es-uh nt, kwahy-	1. marked by inactivity or repose : tranquilly at rest 2. causing no trouble or symptoms <quiescent gallstones>
frangible	She brought <i>frangible</i> china teacups that were totally inappropriate for a child's birthday party	Medieval Latin	'fran-jə-bəl	fran-juh-buh l	readily or easily broken

annihilate	The enemy troops were <i>annihilated</i> .	Latin	ə-ˈnī-ə-, lāt	<i>uh -nahy-uh -leyt</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a. to cause to be of no effect : nullify b. to destroy the substance or force of 2. to regard as of no consequence 3. to cause to cease to exist; especially : kill 4. a. to destroy a considerable part of <bombs annihilated the city> b. to vanquish completely : rout <annihilated the visitors 56–0> 5. to cause (a particle and its antiparticle) to vanish by annihilating, of a particle and its antiparticle : to vanish or cease to exist by coming together and changing into other forms of energy (as photons)
iridescence	The child admired the <i>iridescence</i> of oil spills in the parking lot.	Unknown	,ir-ə-ˈde-sən(t)s	ir-i- des-uh ns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a lustrous rainbowlike play of color caused by differential refraction of light waves (as from an oil slick, soap bubble, or fish scales) that tends to change as the angle of view changes 2. a lustrous or attractive quality or effect
fardel	Many college students seem weighed down by the <i>fardel</i> they carry on their backs.	Anglo-French	\ˈfär-dəl\	fahr -dl	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bundle 2. burden

aficionado	She was an <i>aficionado</i> of opera and went to a performance almost every month	Latin	\ə-ˈfi-sh(ē)-ə-ˈnā- (,)dō, -fē-, -sē-ə-\	uh -fish-yuh - nah -doh	a person who likes, knows about, and appreciates a usually fervently pursued interest or activity : devotee <aficionados of the bullfight> <movie aficionados>
alleviate	Her sympathy <i>alleviated</i> her friend's distress.	Latin	\ə-ˈlē-vē-, āt\	uh -lee-vee-eyt	1. a. to make (as suffering) more bearable <her sympathy alleviated his distress> b. to partially remove or correct <measures taken to alleviate a labor shortage>
altruism	A few skimpy corporate pensions were paid, but they were offered as much as departure incentives designed to promote business efficiency as expressions of <i>altruism</i> .	Latin	\ˈal-trü-, i-zəm\	al-troo-iz-uh m	1. unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others 2. behavior by an animal that is not beneficial to or may be harmful to itself but that benefits others of its species
amoeba	She inspected the water under a microscope and saw an <i>amoeba</i> .	Greek	\ə-ˈmē-bə\	uh -mee-buh	a tiny living thing that consists of a single cell
curmudgeon	I just could not bear to stay in the room with such a <i>curmudgeon</i>	Unknown	\(,)kər-ˈmə-jən\	ker- muhj -uh n	1. a. archaic : miser b. a crusty, ill-tempered, and usually old man

auxiliary	The auditorium has an <i>auxiliary</i> cooling system used only on particularly sweltering days	Latin	\`og-'zil-yə-rē, -'zil-rē, -'zi-lə-\	awg- zil -yuh -ree, - zil -uh -	1. a. offering or providing help b. functioning in a subsidiary capacity <an auxiliary branch of the state university> c. supplementary d. constituting a reserve <an auxiliary power plant> e. equipped with sails and a supplementary inboard engine <an auxiliary sloop>
bellwether	She was a <i>bellwether</i> of fashion.	Middle English	\`bel-'we-thər, -we-\	bel-weth -er	someone or something that leads others or shows what will happen in the future; one that takes the lead or initiative : leader; also : an indicator of trends
camouflage	The rabbit's white fur acts as a <i>camouflage</i> in the snow.	French	\`ka-mə-,flāzh, -flāj\	kam-uh -flahzh	1. a. the disguising especially of military equipment or installations with paint, nets, or foliage; also : the disguise so applied b. concealment by means of disguise c. behavior or artifice designed to deceive or hide
aphrodisiac	Oysters are held by some to be an <i>aphrodisiac</i> .	Greek	\,a-frə-'dē-zē-ak, -'di-zē-\	af-ruh - dee -ze-ak, - diz -ee-ak	something (such as a food, drink, or drug) that causes or increases sexual desire
cardiopulmonary	They kept Alexey in the hospital for <i>cardiopulmonary</i> surgery after he had trouble breathing.	Unknown	\,kär-dē-ō-'pül-mə-,ner-ē, -'pəl-\	kahr-dee-oh- puhl -muh -ner-ee, - poo l-	of or relating to the heart and lungs

celerity	Felicia jumped into the car and accelerated away with	Latin	\sə-'ler-ə-tē, -'le-rə-\	<i>suh</i> - ler -i-tee	rapidity of motion or action
synthesis	A philosophy that is a kind of <i>synthesis</i> of several schools of Western and Eastern thought	Greek	'sin(t)-thə-səs	sin - <i>thuh</i> -sis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a. the composition or combination of parts or elements so as to form a whole <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. the production of a substance by the union of chemical elements, groups, or simpler compounds or by the degradation of a complex compound c. the combining of often diverse conceptions into a coherent whole; also : the complex so formed 2. a. deductive reasoning <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. the dialectic combination of thesis and antithesis into a higher stage of truth 3. the frequent and systematic use of inflected forms as a characteristic device of a language

circumcision	The Jewish couple took their baby boy to the synagogue for <i>circumcision</i> .	Unknown	\,sər-kəm-'si-zhən, 'sər-kəm-,\	sur-kuh m-sizh-uh n	1. a. the act of circumcising; especially: a Jewish rite performed on male infants as a sign of inclusion in the Jewish religious community b. the condition of being circumcised c. capitalized - January 1 observed as a festival in some churches in commemoration of the circumcision of Jesus
coalesce	A group of young reformers gradually <i>coalesced</i> into a political movement	Latin	\,kō-ə-'les\	koh-uh -les	1. a. to grow together b. to unite into a whole - fuse c. to unite for a common end - join forces
coercion	A promise obtained by <i>coercion</i> is never binding	Unknown	\-'ər-zhən, -shən\	koh-ur-shuh n	the act, process, or power of coercing
consensus	The <i>consensus</i> was to go ahead with the plan	Latin	\kən-'sen(t)-səs\	kuh n-sen-suh s	1. a. general agreement : unanimity <the consensus of their opinion, based on reports ... from the border — John Hersey> b. the judgment arrived at by most of those concerned <the consensus was to go ahead> c. group solidarity in sentiment and belief
convalescence	George suffered from a major chest infection and had a long <i>convalescence</i>	Latin	\,kän-və-'le-sən(t)s\	kon-vuh -les-uh ns	to recover health and strength gradually after sickness or weakness

convenience	An elevator was available for their <i>convenience</i>	Unknown	\kən-'vēn-yən(t)s\	<i>kuh</i> n- veen-yuh ns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a. fitness or suitability for performing an action or fulfilling a requirement b. something (as an appliance, device, or service) conducive to comfort or ease c. chiefly British - toilet d. a suitable or convenient time <at your convenience> e. freedom from discomfort - ease
accumulation	There is a vast <i>accumulation</i> of evidence about the dangers of smoking	from 15th C	\ə-,kyü-m(y)ə-'lā-shən\	<i>uh</i> -kyoo-myuh - ley-shuh n	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. something that has accumulated or has been accumulated 2. the action or process of accumulating : the state of being or having accumulated
daiquiri	At the bar, she offered to buy the stylish woman a <i>daiquiri</i>	Cuba	'da-kə-rē, 'dī-	dahy-kuh -ree, dak-uh -	a cocktail made usually of rum, lime juice, and sugar
discipline	The troops were praised for their dedication and <i>discipline</i> .	Latin	'di-sə-plən	dis-uh -plin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. punishment 2. obsolete : instruction 3. a field of study 4. training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character 5. a. control gained by enforcing obedience or order b. orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior c. self-control 6. a rule or system of rules governing conduct or activity

divulge	She was horrified that he had <i>divulged</i> her secret	Latin	də-'vəlʃ, dī-	dih- vuhlj , dahy-	1. archaic : to make public : proclaim 2. to make known (as a confidence or secret)
chronic	He suffers from <i>chronic</i> arthritis.	Greek	\ 'krä-nik\	kron-ik	1. a. marked by long duration or frequent recurrence : not acute <chronic indigestion> <chronic experiments> b. suffering from a chronic disease <the special needs of chronic patients> c. always present or encountered; especially: constantly vexing, weakening, or troubling <chronic petty warfare> d. being such habitually <a chronic grumbler>
euphemism	He used the word "eliminate" as a <i>euphemism</i> for "kill."	Greek	yü-fə-, mi-zəm	yoo-fuh -miz-uh m	a mild or pleasant word or phrase that is used instead of one that is unpleasant or offensive
excruciating	Tamara was suffering from an <i>excruciating</i> headache.	Latin	/ik'skru ʃi, ei tiŋ/	ik- skroo -shee-ey-ting	causing great pain or anguish; very intense
condescend	They were wealthy people who tended to be <i>condescending</i> toward their poor relations	Latin	\, kän-di-'send\	kon- duh -send	1. a. to descend to a less formal or dignified level : unbend b. to waive the privileges of rank c. to assume an air of superiority
exhilaration	I felt a kind of <i>exhilaration</i> when I reached the peak of the mountain.	Latin	\ig-, zi-lə-'rā-shən\	ig-zil- uh -rey-shuh n	a feeling of great happiness and excitement
facsimile	It is a <i>facsimile</i> of the first folio.	Latin	\fak-'si-mə-lē\	fak- sim-uh -lee	an exact copy

forsythia	Please go and pick me some sprigs of <i>forsythia</i> .	William Forsyth + Latin -ia	\fər-'si-thē-ə, chiefly British -'sī-\	fawr- sith -ee-uh, - sahy -thee-uh, fer-	any of a genus (Forsythia) of ornamental shrubs of the olive family with opposite leaves and yellow bell-shaped flowers appearing before the leaves in early spring
gauge	Surveys are a <i>gauge</i> of public opinion	Anglo-French	\'gāj\	geyj	noun: 1. a. a measurement (as of linear dimension) according to some standard or system: as (1) the distance between the rails of a railroad (2) the size of a shotgun barrel's inner diameter nominally expressed as the number of lead balls each just fitting that diameter required to make a pound (3) the thickness of a thin material (as sheet metal or plastic film) (4) the diameter of a slender object (as wire or a hypodermic needle) (5) the fineness of a knitted fabric expressed by the

grotesque	They were like a gallery of <i>grotesques</i> from some sicko horror movie	Old Italian	\grō-'tesk\	groh- tesk	<p>1. a. a style of decorative art characterized by fanciful or fantastic human and animal forms often interwoven with foliage or similar figures that may distort the natural into absurdity, ugliness, or caricature</p> <p>b. a piece of work in this style</p> <p>2. one that is grotesque</p>
harass	He claims that he is being unfairly <i>harassed</i> by the police	Old French	\hə-'ras; 'her-əs, 'ha-rəs\	huh - ras , har-uh s	<p>1. a. exhaust, fatigue</p> <p>b. (1) to annoy persistently</p> <p>(2) to create an unpleasant or hostile situation for especially by uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct</p> <p>2. to worry and impede by repeated raids</p>
millennium	The year 2000 was celebrated as the beginning of the third <i>millennium</i> .	New Latin	\mə-'le-nē-əm\	mi- len -ee-uh m	<p>1. a. the thousand years mentioned in Revelation 20 during which holiness is to prevail and Christ is to reign on earth</p> <p>b. a period of great happiness or human perfection</p> <p>2. a. a period of 1000 years; especially : one reckoned from the beginning of the Christian era</p> <p>b. a 1000th anniversary or its celebration</p>

hierarchy	He was at the bottom of the corporate <i>hierarchy</i>	Greek	\ 'hī-(ə-),rär-kē also 'hi-(ə)r-,är-\	hahy-uh -rahr-kee, hahy -rahr-	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a division of angels 2. a. a ruling body of clergy organized into orders or ranks each subordinate to the one above it; especially : the bishops of a province or nation b. church government by a hierarchy 3. a body of persons in authority 4. the classification of a group of people according to ability or to economic, social, or professional standing; also : the group so classified 5. a graded or ranked series
hygiene	The doctors were taught that to wash their hands between patients was good <i>hygiene</i>	Greek	\ 'hī-,jēn also hī-\	hahy -jeen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a science of the establishment and maintenance of health 2. conditions or practices (as of cleanliness) conducive to health
inaccessible	The road was <i>inaccessible</i> because of a major traffic accident.	Latin	\,i-nik-'se-sə-bəl, (,)i-,nak-\	in-uh k- ses-uh -buh l	difficult or impossible to reach, approach, or understand : not accessible
intravenous	She discovered that her husband was an <i>intravenous</i> drug user, a heroin addict	Latin	\,in-trə-'vē-nəs\	in-truh - vee -nuh s	situated, performed, or occurring within or entering by way of a vein; also : used in or using intravenous procedures

kamikaze	A bike messenger who regularly cuts across busy city streets with a <i>kamikaze</i> boldness	Japanese	\,kă-mi-'kă-zē\	kah-mi- kah -zee	<p>noun: 1. a member of a Japanese air attack corps in World War II assigned to make a suicidal crash on a target (as a ship)</p> <p>2. an airplane containing explosives to be flown in a suicide crash on a target.</p> <p>adj: 1. of, relating to, or resembling a kamikaze</p> <p>2. having or showing reckless disregard for safety or personal welfare</p>
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liaison	Michael was appointed <i>liaison</i> between the school and the police department.	Old French	\ 'lē-ə-, zän, lē-'ā-, ÷ 'lā-ə-\	lee-ey-zawn, lee-uh -zon, -zuh n or, often, ley-; lee-ey-zuh n, -zon	<p>1. a. binding or thickening agent used in cooking</p> <p>2. a. a close bond or connection : interrelationship b. an illicit sexual relationship : affair</p> <p>3. a. communication for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding and cooperation (as between parts of an armed force) b. one that establishes and maintains communication for mutual understanding and cooperation</p> <p>4. the pronunciation of an otherwise absent consonant sound at the end of the first of two consecutive words the second of which begins with a vowel sound and follows</p>
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lieutenant	She has her best <i>lieutenants</i> working on a proposal.	Latin	\-'te-nənt\ \\-te-nənt\\	loo- ten-uh nt; in British use, except in the navy, lef- ten-uh nt	1. a. an official empowered to act for a higher official b. an aide or representative of another in the performance of duty : assistant 2. a. (1) : first lieutenant (2) : second lieutenant b. : a commissioned officer in the navy or coast guard ranking above a lieutenant junior grade and below a lieutenant commander c. : a fire or police department officer ranking below a captain
masquerade	Although she was deeply bored, she maintained a <i>masquerade</i> of polite interest as her guest droned on.	Old Italian	\\,mas-kə-'rād\ \\,mas-kə-'rād\ \\,mas-kə-'rād\\	mas-kuh - reyd	1. a. a social gathering of persons wearing masks and often fantastic costumes b. a costume for wear at such a gathering 2. an action or appearance that is mere disguise or show
psychiatrist	His distress over his insomnia led him to consult a <i>psychiatrist</i> .	Greek	sə-'kī-ə-trē, sī-	si- kahy-uh -trist, sahy-	a branch of medicine that deals with mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders

medieval, mediaeval	They're using a computer system that seems positively <i>medieval</i> by today's standards	New Latin	\,mē-'dē-vəl, mi-, ,me-, -dē-'ē-vəl\	mee-dee- ee -vuh l, med-ee-, mid-ee-, mid- ee -vuh l	1. of, relating to, or characteristic of the Middle Ages 2. having a quality (as cruelty) associated with the Middle Ages 3. extremely outmoded or antiquated
mediocre	The first course was delicious, but the dessert was only <i>mediocre</i> .	Latin	\,mē-dē-'ō-kər\	mee-dee- oh -ker	of moderate or low quality, value, ability, or performance : ordinary, so-so
seize	She <i>seized</i> his arm and pulled him off the chair	Medieval Latin	'sēz	seez	transitive verb 1. a. usually seize : to vest ownership of a freehold estate in b. often seize : to put in possession of something <the biographer will be seized of all pertinent papers> 2. a. to take possession of : confiscate b. to take possession of by legal process 3. a. to possess or take by force : capture b. to take prisoner : arrest 4. a. to take hold of : clutch b. to possess oneself of : grasp c. to understand fully and distinctly : apprehend 5. a. to attack or overwhelm physically : afflict <seized with

niece	My brother's daughter is my <i>niece</i> .	Latin	\ 'nēs\	nees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a daughter of one's brother, sister, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law 2. an illegitimate daughter of an ecclesiastic
nuance	He listened to the subtle <i>nuances</i> in the song	French	\ 'nü-, ä́n(t)s, 'nyü-, -, ä́ns; nü-', nyü-' \	noo -ahns, nyoo -, noo- ahns , nyoo-; French ny-ahns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a subtle distinction or variation 2. a subtle quality : nicety 3. sensibility to, awareness of, or ability to express delicate shadings (as of meaning, feeling, or value)
occurrence	Getting headaches has become a common <i>occurrence</i> for her.	Medieval Latin	\ ə- 'kər-ən(t)s, - 'kə-rən(t)s\	<i>uh</i> - kur-uh ns, <i>uh</i> - kuhr -	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. something that occurs <a startling occurrence> 2. the action or instance of occurring
ostracism	At one time, behavior such as this would have led to <i>ostracism</i> .	Greek	\ 'äs-trə-, si-zəm\	os-truh -siz- <i>uh</i> m	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a method of temporary banishment by popular vote without trial or special accusation practiced in ancient Greece 2. exclusion by general consent from common privileges or social acceptance
pirouette	The small girl was so excited that she <i>pirouetted</i> around the room.	French	\ ,pir-ə-'wet\	pir-oo- et	a rapid whirling about of the body; especially : a full turn on the toe or ball of one foot in ballet
inured	Does violence on television <i>inure</i> children to violence in real life?	Anglo-French	\ i-'nür, -'nyür\	in- yoo r, ih- noo r	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to accustom to accept something undesirable <children inured to violence> 2. to become of advantage <policies that inure to the benefit of employees>

supersede	This edition <i>supersedes</i> the previous one	Latin	ˌsü-pər-'sēd	soo-per- seed	1. a. to cause to be set aside b : to force out of use as inferior 2. to take the place or position of 3. to displace in favor of another
verbatim	In his paper, Justin quoted his teacher <i>verbatim</i> .	Latin	(,)vər-'bā-təm	ver- bey -tim	In the exact words
buoyant	Fortunately, he was able to continue floating in the lake by holding on to a <i>buoyant</i> object.	Unknown	\ 'bòi-ənt, 'bü-yənt\	boi-uh nt, booyuh nt	1. a. having buoyancy: as capable of floating b. cheerful c. capable of maintaining a satisfactorily high level <a buoyant economy>
vicious	Pedro was bitten by a <i>vicious</i> dog	Latin	'vi-shəs	vish-uh s	1. having the nature or quality of vice or immorality : depraved 2. defective, faulty; also : invalid 3. impure, noxious 4. a. dangerously aggressive : savage <a vicious dog> b. marked by violence or ferocity : fierce <a vicious fight> 5. malicious, spiteful <vicious gossip> 6. worsened by internal causes that reciprocally augment each other <a vicious wage-price spiral>
exorcist	Because she thought her home was occupied by spirits, she called in an <i>exorcist</i> to try to get rid of them	Greek	\, ek-, sör -, si-zəm\	ek-sawr-sist , -ser-	a person who practices exorcism

weird	She thought her roommate's vegetarian meals looked really <i>weird</i> .	Old English	'wird	weerd	<p>noun</p> <p>1. fate, destiny; especially : ill fortune</p> <p>2. soothsayer</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>1. of, relating to, or caused by witchcraft or the supernatural : magical</p> <p>2. of strange or extraordinary character : odd, fantastic</p>
withhold	Five years later, when he attempted once again to <i>withhold</i> taxes, he was finished.	Middle English	with-hohld	with- hohld , with-	<p>transitive verb</p> <p>1. to hold back from action : check</p> <p>2. archaic : to keep in custody</p> <p>3. to refrain from granting, giving, or allowing <withhold permission></p> <p>4. to deduct (withholding tax) from income</p> <p>intransitive verb : forbear, refrain <withhold from commenting></p>
galumph	I could hear her <i>galumphing</i> around in the attic.	Lewis Carroll	\gə-'ləm(p)f\	guh- luhmf	to move with a clumsy heavy tread
gubernatorial	She also assured reporters that she has no intention of dropping out of the <i>gubernatorial</i> race.	Latin	\,gü-bə(r)-nə-'tôr-ē-əl, ,gyü-, ,gü-\	goo-ber- <i>nuh</i> - tawr -ee-uh l, - tohr -, gyoo-	of or relating to a governor

mnemonic	HOMES is used as a <i>mnemonic</i> for the names of the Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.	Greek	\ni-'mä-nik\	ni- mon -ik	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. assisting or intended to assist memory; also : of or relating to mnemonics 2. of or relating to memory 3. something (such as a word, a sentence, or a song) that helps people remember something (such as a rule or a list of names)
boomlet	A few years ago, the town enjoyed a nice <i>boomlet</i> , but since then times have been tough.	Unknown	\'büm-lət\	boom -lit	a small boom; specifically : a sudden increase in business activity
axiomatic	It is <i>axiomatic</i> that good athletes have a strong mental attitude.	Greek	\,ak-sē-ə-'ma-tik\	ak-see-uh - mat -ik	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. taken for granted : self-evident <an axiomatic truth> 2. based on or involving an axiom or system of axioms <axiomatic set theory>
capricious	The court ruled that the punishment was arbitrary and <i>capricious</i> .	Unknown	\kə-'pri-shəs, -'prē-\	kuh - prish -uh s, - pree -shuh s	<p>changing often and quickly; especially : often changing suddenly in mood or behavior</p> <p>not logical or reasonable : based on an idea, desire, etc., that is not possible to predict</p> <p>governed or characterized by caprice : impulsive, unpredictable</p>
chicanery	He wasn't above using <i>chicanery</i> to win votes.	French	\-'kān-rē, -'kā-nə-\	shi- key -nuh -ree, chi-	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deception by artful subterfuge or sophistry : trickery 2. a piece of sharp practice (as at law) : trick

exculpate	The court <i>exculpated</i> him after a thorough investigation.	Latin	\ 'ek-(,)skəl- ,pāt, (,)ek-\	ek -skuhl-peyt, ik- skuhl -peyt	to clear from alleged fault or guilt
ingenuous	Jessica's <i>ingenuous</i> nature made her an easy target for the con man.	Latin	\ in-'jen-yə-wəs, -yü-əs\	in- jen -yoo-uh s	1. obsolete : noble, honorable 2. a. showing innocent or childlike simplicity and candidness b. lacking craft or subtlety
irascible	He has an <i>irascible</i> disposition.	Latin	\ i-'ra-sə-bəl\	ih- ras -uh -buh l	marked by hot temper and easily provoked anger
paeon, pean	His retirement party featured many <i>paeans</i> for his long years of service to the company	Greek	\ 'pē-ən\	pee -uh n	1. a joyous song or hymn of praise, tribute, thanksgiving, or triumph; a joyous song or hymn of praise, tribute, thanksgiving, or triumph 2. a work that praises or honors its subject
predilection	He was a young lad with a <i>predilection</i> for telling tall tales	Latin	\ ,pre-də-'lek-shən, ,prē-\	pred-l- ek -shuh n, pred-	1. a natural liking for something 2. a tendency to do or to be attracted to something
tortuous	The path up the mountain looked <i>tortuous</i> .	Latin	\ 'tōrch-wəs, 'tōrchə-\	tawr -choo-uh s	1. marked by repeated twists, bends, or turns : winding 2. a. marked by devious or indirect tactics : crooked, tricky b. circuitous, involved <the tortuous jargon of legal forms>
cacophony	The sounds of barking dogs and sirens added to the <i>cacophony</i> on the streets.	Greek	\ ka-'kă-fə-nē, -'kô- also -'ka-\	kuh - kof -uh -nee	harsh or discordant sound; dissonance, specifically harshness in the sound of words or phrases

mischievous	The children had been so <i>mischievous</i> that we had to pay the babysitter extra and then clean up the mess	Anglo French	\ 'mis-chə-vəs, 'mish-; ÷mis-'chē-vē-əs, mish-\	mis-chuh -vuh s	1. harmful, injurious <mischievous gossip> 2. a. able or tending to cause annoyance, trouble, or minor injury b. irresponsibly playful
ephemeral	The autumnal blaze of colors is always to be treasured, all the more so because it is so <i>ephemeral</i>	Greek	\ i-'fem-rəl, -'fēm-; -'fe-mə-, -'fē-\	ih- fem -er-uh l	1. lasting one day only <an ephemeral fever> 2. lasting a very short time <ephemeral pleasures>
facetious	The essay was a <i>facetious</i> commentary on the absurdity of war as a solution for international disputes	Latin	\ fə-'sē-shəs\	fuh- see -shuh s	1. joking or jesting often inappropriately 2. meant to be humorous or funny; not serious <a facetious remark>
impecunious	They were so <i>impecunious</i> that they couldn't afford to give one another Christmas gifts	Latin	\ im-pi-'kyū-nyəs, -nē-əs\	im-pi- kyoo -nee-uh s	having very little or no money usually habitually; penniless
harangue	He delivered a long <i>harangue</i> about the evils of popular culture.	Old High German	\ hə-'rɑŋ\	huh- rang	1. a speech addressed to a public assembly 2. a ranting speech or writing
fortuitous	You could not have arrived at a more <i>fortuitous</i> time.	Latin	\ fôr-'tü-ə-təs, -'tyü-, fər-\	fawr- too -i-tuh s, - tyoo -	1. occurring by chance 2. a. fortunate, lucky b. coming or happening by a lucky chance
grandiloquence	The heavyweight champion was famous for his entertaining <i>grandiloquence</i> prior to every match	Latin	\ gran-'di-lə-kwən(t)s\	gran- dil -uh -kwuh ns	a lofty, extravagantly colorful, pompous, or bombastic style, manner, or quality especially in language
impetuous	He's always been an <i>impetuous</i> young man.	Latin	im-'pech-wəs; -'pe-chə-, -chü-əs	im- pech -oo-uh s	1. marked by impulsive vehemence or passion <an impetuous temperament> 2. marked by force and violence of movement or action <an impetuous wind>

vacillate	She has been known to <i>vacillate</i> on these kinds of issues.	Latin	'va-sə-,lāt	vas-uh -leyt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a. to sway through lack of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. fluctuate, oscillate 2. to waver in mind, will, or feeling; hesitate in choice of opinions or courses
chauvinist	Their ingrained <i>chauvinism</i> has blinded them to their country's faults	French	'shō-və-,ni-zəm	shoh-vuh -nist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a person who is aggressively and blindly patriotic, especially one devoted to military glory. 2. a person who believes one gender is superior to the other, as a male chauvinist or a female chauvinist.
hyperbole	Four decades later we're all blabbermouths, adrift on a sea of <i>hyperbole</i> , shouting to be heard.	Greek	hī-'pər-bə-(,)lē	hahy-pur-buh -lee	language that describes something as better or worse than it really is
ambit	"President Buhari acted within the <i>ambit</i> of the law by taking his time to do a thorough job."	Latin	'am-bət	am-bit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. circuit, compass 2. the bounds or limits of a place or district 3. a sphere of action, expression, or influence; scope