

alar	Feather sheaths of the alar tracts penetrated the skin the first day after hatching.	Latin	ey-ler
demotic	One might have thought such an objective admirable, but in their sophistication contemporary linguists are keener on demotic than on elegant English.	Greek	de-mot-ic
parsimony	The family lived with a contradictory sense of parsimony and indulgence, "both beyond and below our means."	Middle English, Latin	pahr-suh-moh-nee
disquisition	Clay launched into a disquisition on race and political theory.	Latin	dis-kwuh-zish-uh n
renascent	Scholars have exhibited a renascent interest in Henry James.	Latin	ri-nas-uh nt, -ney-suh nt
eximious	From these two eximious African American scholars, I expanded on their thesis in my latest essay.	Latin	eg-zim-ee-uh s
opprobrious	In fact, he also insulted me and used opprobrious language in front of my wife.	Middle English, late Latin	uh-proh-bree-uh s

celerity	He moved with a celerity that amazed me, when I remembered how exasperatingly slow he could be...	Middle French, Latin	suh-ler-i-tee
passel	Must be tough, going from no relatives at all to a whole passel of them.	alteration of parcel	pas-uh l
objurgate	Everyone is looking for someone to objurgate for the high gas prices.	Middle English, Middle French, Latin	ob-jer-geyt, uh b-jur-geyt
flocculate	Organic matter causes clay particles to flocculate and make larger lumps.	Unknown	flok-yuh-leyt
demagogue or demagog	Thaksin is widely seen by the Bangkok middle classes as a demagogue who showered benefits on the poor to gain their allegiance.	Greek	dem-uh-gog, -gawg
kitsch	An earlier painting of a dancing woman is equal parts Mexican folk art, Orientalist <i>kitsch</i> and fashion magazine.	German	kich
oligarchy	Certainly they would be better off under a reformist government, rather than the smothering absolutism of the <i>oligarchy</i> .	Unknown	ol-i-gahr-kee
misspell	Keep a list of all the words you <i>misspell</i> , copying them several times in correct form.	Unknown	mis-spel

embarrassing	Jamie bursts into the most <i>embarrassing</i> set of man-tears ever to flow forth on television.	French, from Spanish, from Portuguese	em-bar-uh s
separate	Forest elephants are a <i>separate</i> species, smaller than savannah or Asian elephants.	Middle English, from Latin	sep-er-it
millennium	There are more than a half million fewer auto industry workers than there were at the beginning of the <i>millennium</i> .	Latin	mi-len-ee-uh m
maintenance	You should be prepared for a lot of <i>maintenance</i> when you buy an older house.	Middle English, from Anglo-French	meyn-tuh-nuh ns

accommodate	They had to tear down and rebuild some walls to <i>accommodate</i> the new organ's pipes.	Latin	uh-kom-uh-deyt
deductible	You don't need much to begin — \$500 is enough to cover many unwelcome expenses, such as a medical <i>deductible</i> or a small car repair.	Unknown	dih-duhk-tuh-buh l
judgment	It is very easy to pass <i>judgment</i> on things we do not try to understand.	Unknown	juhj-muh nt
defenestration	The rebels stormed the palace in order to commit the <i>defenestration</i> of the king.	Latin	dee-fen-uh-strey-shuh n

valence	Lewis dot symbols are useful for showing the arrangement of the <i>valence</i> electrons in an atom.	Late Latin	vey-luh ns
popinjay	Yes, I was thinking what a <i>popinjay</i> I should look in a cocked hat.	Middle English	pop-in-jeɪ
chicane	Most get-rich-quick schemes involve more than a smidgen of <i>chicane</i> .	French	shi-keyn, chi-kom-plot (noun) kuh m-plot (verb)
complot	I know their <i>complot</i> is to have my life.	Middle French	kuh n-stey-tiv
constative	Statements are <i>constative</i> utterances.	from French, from Latin	kuh n-stey-tiv
entoptic	I also have strong blue field <i>entoptic</i> phenomenon; I see hundreds of small transparent sparkles that move around in the entire vision field.	Unknown	en-TOP-tik

affluential	The sons and daughters of magnates are <i>affluential</i> .	Unknown	ah-floo-en-shal
galumph	The Great Danes <i>galumph</i> across the floor to greet us.	phonesthemic	guh-luhmf
frabjous	And think, what a <i>frabjous</i> time you can have during your vacations!	Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass	frab-juh s
truculent	They were die-hard fans who became <i>truculent</i> and violent after their team's loss.	Latin	truhk-yuh-luhnt, troo-kyuh-
unctuous	She made an <i>unctuous</i> effort to appear religious to the voters.	from Middle French or Medieval Latin	uhngk-choo-uh s
irresolute	She bowed her head to hide a smile, and appeared to be <i>irresolute</i> for a moment.	Unknown	ih-rez-uh-loot
veracious	He has a reputation for being <i>veracious</i> , so people generally take his word for things.	Latin	vuh-rey-shuh s
factious	They were <i>factious</i> in the extreme, and became one of the principal agents in effecting the Revolution of 1848.	Middle French or Latin	fak-shuh s
emulous	His fame collected round him a host of followers, <i>emulous</i> of his sanctity.	Middle English; Latin	em-yuh-luh s
ignominious	The prison guards degraded themselves with their inhumane, <i>ignominious</i> treatment of the prisoners.	Late Middle English; Latin	ig-nuh-min-ee-uh s

natant	The <i>natant</i> decapods engage in the most extensive grooming.	Middle English, from Latin	neyt-nt
prowess	He is known for his <i>prowess</i> on the football field.	Middle English, from Anglo-French	prou-is
ingenuous	The <i>ingenuous</i> child offered her apple to the hungry stranger.	by alteration; Latin	in-jen-yoo-uh s
specious	She made a <i>specious</i> argument that really does not stand up under close examination.	Middle English, from Latin	spee-shuh s
purblind	It carries connotations of <i>purblind</i> self-righteousness, of senseless moralizing, of good intentions gone awry.	Middle English	pur-blahynd
ostensible	The <i>ostensible</i> reason for the meeting turned out to be a trick to get him to the surprise party.	French, from Latin	o-sten-suh-buh l
arable	The family is selling several acres of <i>arable</i> land.	Anglo-French or Latin	ar-uh-buh l
suffrage	Even as the world entered the 21st century, some nations still did not permit women's <i>suffrage</i> .	from Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Medieval Latin	suhf-rij
equanimous	It was difficult to remain <i>equanimous</i> in the face of such impertinence.	Latin	ih-kwan-uh-muh s

compunctious	Although Macbeth goes through with the murder of the king, his <i>compunctious</i> feelings lead him to feel immediate remorse and guilt for his actions.	Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Late Latin	kuh m-puhngk-shuh s
vituperative	The blogs and listservs have lit up with angry, <i>vituperative</i> comments and threats.	Unknown	vahy-too-per-uh-tiv, -puh-rey-tiv, -tyoo-, vi-
ingenious	She was <i>ingenious</i> at finding ways to work more quickly.	Middle English, from Middle French, from Latin	in-jeen-yuh s
exonerate	The results of the DNA fingerprinting will finally <i>exonerate</i> the man, but only after he has wasted ten years of his life in prison.	Middle English, from Latin	ig-'zä-nə-rāt, eg
sententious	Because the minister was in a hurry to get home to watch the football game, he gave a <i>sententious</i> sermon about the importance of valuing time.	Middle English, from Latin	sen-ten-shuh s
jambalaya	I enjoy restoring and cooking with <i>jambalaya</i> pots and cast iron dutch ovens.	Louisiana French	juh-m-buh-lahy-uh
immolate	Ancient kings would <i>immolate</i> vast numbers of animals as offerings to the gods.	Latin	im-uh-leyt

diurnal	Can a body train itself to swap its daytime or <i>diurnal</i> rhythm for a nocturnal tempo?	Middle English, from Latin	dahy-ur-nl
mendacious	The newspaper story was <i>mendacious</i> and hurtful.	Latin	men-dey-shuh s
pachyderm	The director said he was inspired to create the <i>pachyderm</i> while watching a television documentary on the slaughter of elephants for ivory.	French	pak-i-durm
revenant	He was a disfigured and claw-gloved <i>revenant</i> who had the power to stalk and kill his victims from within their own dreams.	French	rev-uh-nuh nt
degustation	Is <i>degustation</i> a pretentious waste of time, or the perfect way to sample the work of top chefs?	French	dih-guhst
puissant	She was one of the nation's most respected and <i>puissant</i> advocates for the rights of minorities.	Late Middle English, Middle French, Latin	pyoo-uh-suh nt, pyoo-is-uh nt, pwis-uh nt
chortle	Audiences might chortle gently during the movie's amusing bits, but there are few knee-slappers.	probably blend of chuckle and snort	chawr-tl

sapphire	On a clear day, you can see more than 150 feet deep in the lake's sapphire waters.	from Old French, from Latin, from Greek	saf-ahyuh r
piranha	<i>"But kill that piranha before you try to handle it," she advised seriously."</i>	Portuguese	pi-rah-n-yuh, -ran- or, often, -rah-nuh, -ran-uh
shellacking	They took a shellacking in yesterday's game.	French	shuh-lak-ing
snollygoster	The snollygoster was kicked out of office when he was caught taking kickbacks.	1846, American English slang	snol-ee-gos-ter
mellifluous	In or out of uniform his motion is languid, his voice relaxed and mellifluous, his movements deliberate, confident.	Middle English, from Late Latin	muh-lif-loo-uh s
troglodyte	He was no better than a troglodyte, set down in a new wilderness.	Latin from Greek	trog-luh-dahyt
peregrination	A peregrination of the huge mall left us all with throbbing feet.	late middle english	per-i-gruh-ney-shuh n
marmorean (may also be spelled marmoreal)	The museum is housed in a large marmorean white building.	Latin	mahr-mawr-ee-uh l, -mohr-
hyperbole	Exaggeration and hyperbole are constant campaign companions, as useful and expected as hammers and saws on a construction site.	Latin, from Greek	hahy-pur-buh-lee

dactyl	A dactyl is the reverse of an anapest: it contains a stressed syllable followed by two unstressed ones.	Middle English, Latin, Greek	dak-til
gaucherie	The American's attempt to seem sophisticated is thus taken by the waiter as a mark of irredeemable American gaucherie.	French	goh-shuh-ree
nullifidian	The nullifidian had no interest in reading the Bible.	Latin	nuhl-uh-fid-ee-uh n
edentulous	Cross out "some toothless old people" and write "certain edentulous persons."	Latin	ee-den-chuh-luh s
skatole	The skatole put in ice-cream is man-made.	Greek	skat-ohl, -awl
asphodel	His favorite plants were the vine, ivy, laurel, and asphodel.	Latin, Greek	as-fuh-del
obloquy	Unable to mount a rational defense of her position, she unleashed a torrent of obloquy on her opponent	Late Middle English, late Latin	ob-luh-kwee
immiseration	For some, additional consequences were death and the immiseration of the widows and orphans they left behind.	Unknown	ih-mis-uh-rey-shuh n

terpsichore	The cause for celebration, the ninth annual American Choreography Awards, also proved a fine showcase for the dance troupe's terpsichore.	Latin, Greek	turp-sik-uh-ree
binaural	Binaural beats are used to achieve a much deeper meditative experience	Unknown	bahy-nawr-uh l, bin-awr-uh l
kakistocracy	We must weigh our votes carefully, else we are in danger of turning America's time-tested democracy into a kakistocracy.	Greek	kak-uh-stok-ruh-see
coulrophobia	She couldn't go to the circus because she suffered from coulrophobia.	Greek	kool-ruh-foh-bee-uh
symphysis	The symphysis is long, contracted, and hollowed out in the shape of a ladle.	Greek	sim-fuh-sis
nidicolous	They are nidicolous due to their dependence on the parents for feeding, protection and learning survival skills	Latin	nahy-dik-uh-luh s
hypogeal	A long black escalator lowered the two of them into the hypogeal twilight of the McPherson metro-station.	Late Latin	hahy-puh-jee-uh l, hip-uh-

narcissism	While only 6% of the US population is thought to actually have narcissistic personality disorder, narcissism is really on a spectrum.	German, from Latin	nahr-suh-siz-em
clerisy	The clerisy operates on very different principles than its rival power brokers, the oligarchs of finance, technology or energy.	German, from Latin	kler-uh-see
acknowledgment	The police letter was the first official <i>acknowledgement</i> that fraud may have taken place.	Unknown	ak-nol-ij-muh-nt
monophthong	One of the most notable features evident here is the vocalist's tendency to produce <i>monophthongs</i> in words like 'I' and 'my' so they sound more like ahh and mahh.	Greek	'mä-nə(f)-thòŋ
insouciance	Its <i>insouciance</i> with punctuation may lend the book an aura of difficulty, but in practice this is not the case.	French	in-'sü-sē-ən(t)s

cichlid	The <i>Cichlid</i> family is unique for their diversity when it comes to size and shape, as well as behavior and swimming skills.	Greek	'si-kləd
cinchonine	Red bark contains not only quinine and <i>cinchonine</i> , but also cinchonidine.	Unknown	'siŋ-kə-, nēn, 'sin-chə-
celloidin	Pour some soft <i>celloidin</i> into a test tube; carefully revolve the test tube so that an even film of celloidin dries on the inside.	Unknown	cel·loi·din
coelenterate	In common with all <i>Coelenterate</i> animals, the walls of the columnar body and also the tentacles and peristome of <i>Actinia</i> are composed of three layers of tissue.	Greek	si-'len-tə-, rāt, -rət
puerperal	On the evening of the 17th he delivered a patient, who was seized with <i>puerperal</i> fever on the 19th, and died on the 24th.	Latin	pyoo-ur-per-uh l
metope	Vitruvius, on the other hand, suggested that there should be a half metope left at the corner outside the outermost triglyph	Greek	met-uh-pee, -ohp
logaoedic	In Sprung Rhythm, as in <i>logaoedic</i> rhythm generally, the feet are assumed to be equally long or strong and their seeming inequality is made up by pause or stressing.	Late Latin, from Late Greek	law-guh-ee-dik, log-uh-

phlyctena	The skin around this enormous <i>phlyctena</i> was an angry red.	Greek	flik-tee-nuh
arsenious	Mispickel is the principal source of <i>arsenious</i> oxide or the "white arsenic" of commerce.	Unknown	ahr-see-nee-uh s
doughty	The <i>doughty</i> heroes of old were her favorites.	Middle English, from Old English	dou-tee
condign	A suspension without pay is <i>condign</i> punishment for breaking the company's code of business ethics.	Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin	kuh n-dahyn
calumniate	The short-lived Sedition Act of 1798 made it illegal to <i>calumniate</i> the President of the United States.	Latin	kuh-luhm-nee-eyt
propitiate	He made an offering to <i>propitiate</i> the angry gods.	Latin	pruh-pish-ee-eyt
farraginous	I discarded my broken heart into a <i>farraginous</i> pile of other organs.	Latin	fuh-raj-uh-nuh s
pulchritude	The manager intimated that what I lacked in voice I made up in <i>pulchritude</i> .	Middle English	puhl-kri-tood, -tyood
susurrate	The spring grasses will <i>susurrate</i> under your boots.	Latin	sju:sə_rert
afflatus	A poet writing against his genius will be like a prophet without his <i>afflatus</i> .	Latin	uh-fley-tuh s
ratatouille	Ratatouille tastes even better the day after it's made, so you might want to plan ahead.	French	rat-uh-too-ee, -twee; French ra-ta-too-yuh
ailurophile, aelurophile	The ancient Egyptians were perhaps history's greatest <i>ailurophiles</i> .	Greek	ahy-loo r-uh-fahyl, ey-loo r

onomatopoeia	Mao, the term for a "cat," is obviously an example of onomatopoeia.	Late Latin, from Greek	on-uh-mat-uh-pee-uh, -mah-tuh
batrachian	Its body is less adaptively modified and shows the essentially fish-like character of the batrachian structure.	Greek	buh-trey-kee-uh n
borborygmus	Despite trying to ignore it, she was embarrassed that her borborygmus was so loud during her speech.	Greek	bawr-buh-rig-muh s
callipygian	Her gown clung damply to her body, clearly revealing her callipygian curves.	Greek	kal-uh-pij-ee-uh n
litotes	The best advice on how to use the word litotes in colloquial English is don't. It's a very formal, technical word.	Greek	lahy-tuh-teez, lit-uh-, lahy-toh-teez
tnesis	Shakespeare uses tmesis in his literary pieces.	Late Latin, from Greek	tuh-mee-sis
trochee	The assembly was stirred to wild applause by a double trochee.	Latin, Greek	troh-kee
silique	The capsule is very long and narrow, resembling a silique in shape, but broad on the outside.	late Middle English	suh-leek, sil-ik

hieroglyphics	The amulet bore hieroglyphs that archaeologists had not been able to decipher until the 19th century.	Late latin, Greek	hahy-er-uh-glif-ik, hahy-ruh-
heliolatry	With great anticipation I look forward to practicing heliolatry...until Saturday of course when the rain is expected.	Greek	hee-lee-ol-uh-tree
chrysanthemum	He is particularly proud of his prize-winning chrysanthemums	Latin, Greek	kri-san-thuh-muh m
antediluvian	She had found evidence in the Middle East of an antediluvian people previously unknown to history.	Latin	an-tee-di-loo-vee-uh n
acquiesce	Apparently the contractor expected me to acquiesce to my own fleecing.	Latin, French	ak-wee-es
myiasis	Boil-like lesions are often produced in cases of cutaneous myiasis	Greek	mahy-uh-sis

paries	Hair must be protected from water pressure on the inside <i>paries</i> of the hair.	Latin	pair-ee-eez
ecdysiast	The comments on this piece include the traumatic memories of those who've had negative experiences ordering ecdysiasts for home delivery.	Coined by H.L. Mencken, from Greek	ek-diz-ee-ast, -ist
anacoluthon	A breakdown like this—an anacoluthon, as the grammarians call it—is nothing strange in Paul's style.	Late Latin, from Late Greek	an-uh-kuh-loo-thuh
aposiopesis	There have been a number of famous examples of Aposiopesis in literature, as well as in some no-so-great pieces of writing.	Late Latin, from Greek	ap-uh-sahy-uh-pee-seez
foudroyant	The onset of Meningitis is often foudroyant	Latin	foo-droi-uh-nt; French foo-drwa-yahn
cynosure	That company is the cynosure for anyone wishing to make it in the music business.	Middle French & Latin	sahy-nuh-shoo r, sin-uh-
graupel	Graupel is distinct from small hail.	German	grou-puh l
witloof	One packet of seed of the witloofwill furnish plants enough for a large family.	Dutch	wit-lohf
apparatchik	Old apparatchiks have given way to the Russian government's young reformers.	Russian	ah-puh-rah-chik; Russian uh-puh-raht-chyik

ratafia	The last batch of home-brewed ratafia had a weird aftertaste	French	rat-uh-fee-uh
totipotent	Totipotent embryo cells can differentiate into a hundred different cell types specialized to form such tissues as skin, marrow, and muscle	Latin	toh-tip-uh-tuh- nt
belomancy	Belomancy was a kind of divination by arrows, practised among various nations in the East, but chiefly among the Arabians.	Greek	bel-uh-man- see
sabot	They wear wooden clogs, a sort of sabot, and make such a noise.	French	sab-oh; French sa- boh
ageusia	Ever since he developed ageusia, his appetite has been diminished.	New Latin	uh-gyoo-zee- uh, -zhee-uh, -zhuh
botryoidal	In Sunderland, the rock assumes a botryoidal character.	Greek	bo-tree-oid-l
ecphonesis	Edgar Allan Poe used ecphonesis in "The Tell-Tale Heart:"	Greek	ek-fuh-nee- sis
isopiestic	Any shift in the isopiestic lines shows change in atmospheric pressure.	Greek	ahy-soh- pahy-es-tik
olecranon	He had surgery to repair a stress fracture of the olecranon, a bone behind the elbow.	New Latin, Greek	oh-lek-ruh- non, oh-li- krey-non

sarrusophone	The tone of the sarrusophone is something like that of the bassoon.	French, surname	suh-roo-zuh-fohn, -ruhs-uh-
bourrée	The costumed dancers performed a bourrée.	French	boo-rey; French boo-rey
keeshond	The friendly keeshond bounded up, tail wagging.	Dutch	keys-hond, kees-
sauerbraten	His favorite dish to this day is sauerbraten, a pot roast marinated in vinegar and beer that his mother made when he was young.	German	souuh r-braht-n, sou-er-; German zou-uh r-braht-n
tchotchke	His bedroom contained polka-dot curtains, flowery wallpaper, and shelves cluttered with tchotchkes from a lifetime of vacations.	Yiddish	chahch-kuh
perestroika	He built his empire in the perestroika days, when Russia was a new and often violent capitalism frontier.	Russian	per-uh-stroi-kuh; Russian pyi-ryi-stroi-kuh
flense	It took us two hours to kill our first whale, and four to flense it.	Dutch, Norwegian	flens
acescent	A common cause of cramp is indigestion, and the use of acescent liquors; these should be avoided.	Latin	uh-ses-uh nt
metonymy	Psychological studies lend support to the assumption that metonymy is typically based on firmly established associations between entities.	Latin, Greek	mi-ton-uh-mee

uxoricide	Since the wife died of uxoricide the husband was unable to claim the insurance payment.	Latin, English	uhk-sawr-uh-sahyd, -sohr-, uhg-zawr-, -zohr-
roquelaure	The merchant's roquelaure was lined in red and trimmed with fur.	French	rok-uh-lawr, -lohr,roh-kuh-; French rawkuh-lawr
xebec	The earlier xebec and windward ships were used by the Barbary pirates from the 16th century.	Arabic	zee-bek
marocain	Her dress was of marocain with satin trim.	French	mar-uh-keyn, mar-uh-keyn
myrmidon	One could argue that wars are really just clashes between bands of myrmidons.	Greek	mur-mi-don, -dn
coriaceous	On a barren rock grows a tree with dry and coriaceous leaves.	Latin	kawr-ee-ey-shuhs, kohr-, kor-
coulomb	It is equal to a rate of flow of electricity of one coulomb per second.	French surname	koo-lom, -lohlm, koo-lom,-lohlm

<p>spell</p>	<p>The audience will cheer loudly even if you do not <i>spell</i> this word correctly.</p>	<p>Germanic</p>	<p>spel</p>
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