
The Word Within the Word • List #10

ped	<i>(foot or child)</i>	orthopedist, pedagogue, centipede, expedition, pedestrian, pedestal	<i>Latin</i>
mort	<i>(death)</i>	mortal, mortician, mortified, immortality, mortuary, moribund	<i>Latin</i>
carn	<i>(flesh)</i>	carnivorous, incarnate, reincarnated, carnival, carnation, carnage	<i>Latin</i>
psych	<i>(soul)</i>	psychology, psychic, psychopathic, parapsychology, psychosis	<i>Greek</i>
ethno	<i>(race or culture)</i>	ethnocentrism, ethnic group, ethnography, ethnologist	<i>Greek</i>
gen	<i>(origin)</i>	genetics, hydrogen, progeny, engender, gene, ingenuous, indigenous	<i>Greek</i>
nat	<i>(born)</i>	prenatal, native, natural, nativity, nation, nascent, natal, perinatal	<i>Latin</i>
paleo	<i>(old)</i>	paleozoic, paleolithic, paleontologist, paleoanthropic, paleography	<i>Greek</i>
curs	<i>(run)</i>	cursive, discursive, incursion, precursor, cursory, cursorial, cursor	<i>Latin</i>
crypt	<i>(hidden)</i>	cryptic, cryptologist, crypt, cryptogram, encrypt, cryptesthesia	<i>Greek</i>
cad	<i>(fall)</i>	cascade, cadaver, cadence, cadenza, cadaverous, decadent	<i>Latin</i>
capit	<i>(head)</i>	decapitate, capital, recapitulate, capitulation, capitulum	<i>Latin</i>
loqu	<i>(talk)</i>	loquacious, circumlocution, eloquent, soliloquy, somniloquy	<i>Latin</i>
sacro	<i>(holy)</i>	sacrosanct, sacred, sacrifice, sacrament, sacrilege, consecrate	<i>Latin</i>
uni	<i>(one)</i>	unicycle, universe, united, union, uniform, unison, unique, unicorn	<i>Latin</i>
ness	<i>(quality)</i>	softness, redness, politeness, kindness, darkness, vagueness	<i>Old English</i>
alt	<i>(high)</i>	altitude, alto, altimeter, altar, altocumulus, altiplano	<i>Latin</i>
ics	<i>(art)</i>	politics, economics, aesthetics, graphics, ethics, calisthenics	<i>Greek</i>
iso	<i>(equal)</i>	isothermal, isometric, isosceles, isomer, isocracy, isotope	<i>Greek</i>
vert	<i>(turn)</i>	convert, revert, inverted, divert, vertex, controvert, extrovert, introvert	<i>Latin</i>
ate	<i>(cause)</i>	domesticate, implicate, create, procreate, insinuate, placate, dominate	<i>Latin</i>
cor	<i>(heart)</i>	core, concord, discord, misericord, cordial, courageous	<i>Latin</i>
ess	<i>(female)</i>	lioness, empress, princess, baroness, seamstress, governess	<i>Greek</i>
muta	<i>(change)</i>	mutant, mutation, mutagenic, mutable, transmutation, immutable	<i>Latin</i>
fug	<i>(flee)</i>	centrifuge, fugitive, tempus fugit, subterfuge, refugee, fugue	<i>Latin</i>

sub

under • beneath • below

The Latin stem **sub**, which we define as meaning *under*, actually can have a wide variety of meanings, and is sometimes shortened to **suc**, **suf**, **sug**, **sum**, **sup**, **sur**, and even **sus** in order to blend with the stem that follows it. Though **sub** often means *under*, it can mean *beneath*, *below*, *lower*, *somewhat*, or even *inferior*. Here are some of the interesting words that contain **sub** in its various shades of meaning:

- subcutaneous**: beneath the skin. He was troubled by a subcutaneous infection.
- subduct**: to draw downward. She swam against the subduction in the offshore current.
- sublunary**: under the moon. The lovers enjoyed a beautiful sublunary dance.
- sublimate**: to express acceptably. The urge of the id can find creative sublimations.
- submontane**: at the foot of the mountains. The submontane vegetation was more lush.
- subtle**: not obvious. Subtle clues told her to avoid asking about the problem.
- subvert**: to overthrow. They worked to subvert the established regime.
- substratum**: foundation. His peaceful humility was founded on a substratum of religion.
- subsistence**: bare survival. They survived at a subsistence level by gathering food.
- subaqueous**: underwater. The subaqueous habitation gradually developed into a city.
- subservient**: obsequious. The toady's subservient fawning irritated her.
- subtrahend**: number subtracted. The deduction was a fearful subtrahend from the check.
- surreptitious**: done in secret. The plans were made at a surreptitious meeting in the Alps.
- suffuse**: to fill with color. Becky Thatcher's face was suffused with embarrassment.
- suffrage**: voting. Women's suffrage began very late in American history.
- succinct**: brief and clear. Her succinct description impressed them all.
- suggest**: to mention. He suggested a solution, but no one listened.
- suffocate**: to smother. Small businesses were being suffocated by federal regulations.
- suspend**: to hang. The bridge was suspended from massive cables.
- sustain**: maintain. They were unable to sustain their initial enthusiasm.
- summon**: order to appear. The peremptory summons was ignored.

The Word Within the Word • Sentences #10

1. The **orthopedist** went on an African **expedition**.
2. The **mortician** was **mortified** at the sight of the **mortal** wound.
3. The **carnivorous** beasts of Venus are **reincarnated** after death.
4. The **psychologist** viewed the **parapsychologist** with suspicion.
5. **Ethnocentrism** is disturbing to all **ethnic** groups.
6. The **geneticist's** hobby was studying **pathogenic** substances.
7. **Prenatal** care is important to **natives** in **natural** environments.
8. The **paleontologist** was an expert on the **Paleozoic** era.
9. The **discursive** speech gave only **cursory** attention to the problem.
10. The **cryptologist** worked all night to break the enemy secret code.
11. The **cadaver** was discovered near the rushing **cascade**.
12. **Decapitation** was once a common form of **capital** punishment.
13. The **loquacious** bore answered every question with a **circumlocution**.
14. The hero's **sacrifice** was a **sacrosanct** memory.
15. The **United** Planets of the **Universe** soon celebrate their **union**.
16. The sky's **redness** and the clouds' **softness** were beautiful.
17. The broken **altimeter** no longer measured the **altitude**.
18. Computer **graphics** enhance books on **politics** and **economics**.
19. The **isothermal** piedmont region escaped the extremes of temperature.
20. The new **convert** soon **reverted** to his previous views about **advertisement**.
21. To **calibrate** one's response is to **obviate** one's apology.
22. The extreme **discordance** of viewpoints prevented **concord**.
23. The **lioness** ate the **empress** but not the **princess**.
24. The post-war **mutants** lived in a **mutagenic** atmosphere.
25. "*Tempus fugit*," said the escaped **fugitive** caught in the whirling **centrifuge**.

The Word Within the Word • Ideas #10

EMOTION:

1. How would you feel if you were forced to **capitulate** (Imagine the circumstances for yourself.)? How would you feel if someone were forced to capitulate to you?
2. Imagine your emotions if **mutagenic** substances were discovered in your drinking water, substances that could be traced to a nearby toxic waste dump. Who would you seek out for actions and explanations.

AESTHETICS:

1. What sounds do these words suggest: **unison**, **carnival**, **darkness**, **centrifuge**, **refugee**, **sacrifice**, **Paleozoic**, **calisthenics**, and **universe**?
2. Is your artistic appreciation **ethnocentric**? Can you think of another—especially a very different—culture whose art you deeply admire?

SYNTHESIS:

1. Pick an example word in List #10 and use at least three other words from the list to define the word you picked.
2. Make a **cryptogram** using words from List #10. To make it more difficult, use words from one field of thought only—use words from biology, or history, etc.

DIVERGENCE:

1. How many **cracy** or **archy** words can you think of which are names for different forms of government? Don't forget **isocracy**, a government in which each person has an equal amount of power to every other person. Once you have remembered as many as you can, see how many forms of government you can *invent*, such as the **dormocracy**: the government that seems to be asleep! Invent as many new governments as you can.
2. Have you ever been trapped by someone who wanted to talk about a subject you wished to avoid? Or who wanted to ask a question you didn't want to answer? How many clever **subterfuges** can you think of to escape such a situation? As an example, "I'd love to talk to you now, but I left a poodle in the microwave petwash."

The Word Within the Word • Analogies #10

1. **subterfuge : fugitive ::**
circumlocution : orthopedist
politics : economics
lioness : empress
ingenuous : indigenous
2. **unicycle : unique ::**
fugitive : refugee
soliloquy : solitude
extrovert : introvert
concord : discord
3. **dialogue : soliloquy ::**
altimeter : altitude
mutagen : mutation
colloquy : monologue
aesthetics : graphics
4. **domination : capitulation ::**
decapitate : recapitulate
natal : perinatal
pedagogue : pedestrian
rule : surrender
5. **aesthetics : ethics ::**
convert : revert
sacrosanct : sacred
art : morals
economics : psychopathic
6. **ethnologist : ethnic group ::**
entomologist : altimeter
psychologist : ethnography
paleontologist : tyrannosaurus
cryptologist : cryptogram
7. **consecration : sacrilege ::**
mutagenic : immutable
precursor : forerunner
nascent : moribund
paleozoic : paleontologist
8. **eloquent : soliloquy ::**
ingenuous : progeny
psychic : psychology
incarnate : carnival
grandiloquent : panegyric
9. **softness : kindness ::**
roughness : ingenuousness
somniloquy : discursive
decadence : cadence
cryptologist : encryption
10. **lioness : carnivorous ::**
extrovert : loquacious
convert : introvert
sacrifice : sanguinary
alto : cadenza

The Word Within the Word • Notes #10

1. A Micropoem: Has there been a recent **expedition** to the headwaters of the Amazon? A common characteristic of expeditions is suggested by the word itself: members of an expedition go out (ex) into the wild on foot (ped).
2. We have all had the displeasure of listening to **circumlocution**. That is when someone is talking (loqu) in circles (circum). But there are two main varieties of **circumlocution**. There is unintentional circumlocution in which a person is talking in circles and doesn't realize it, and there is intentional circumlocution in which someone talks in circles in order to evade answering a question.
3. A Micropoem: A **subterfuge** is a clever evasion in which a person tries to avoid revealing something; it is an evasive trick, a stratagem. A literal interpretation of **subterfuge** might be to **duck**, in the sense of ducking a question, since **subterfuge** means to flee (fug) under (sub).
4. We say that a speech is **discursive** if it is rambling and digressive—if the speaker doesn't stick to the point. The literal meaning of **discursive**, however, is somewhat more exciting. A speech is discursive if it is a runaway, if it is out of control. The speaker has let the speech run (curs) away (dis) from him.
5. You wouldn't think that **hydrogen** would be an interesting word. Hydrogen is the name of the simplest and most common element in the universe, but on our planet we possess a wonderful hydrogen-based treasure: water. The importance of water to human life can hardly be exaggerated—even our bodies are mostly water. So when it was time to give hydrogen a name, the obvious choice was to name hydrogen after its most important role: hydrogen is the main ingredient in the creation (gen) of water (hydro). Hydrogen is the water-originator. No H, no H₂O.
6. One of the most biting terms of derision is the adjective **pedestrian**. We say that someone has pedestrian taste, or worse, a pedestrian mind. This means that the person simply never attains anything lofty or swift, graceful or elegant; he just slogs along on foot (ped), altitude zero, speed 1 mph.
7. The word **cadaver** is unusually poignant. All of our lives we live in the earth's gravitational field, and the vitality of our bodies allows us to resist that invisible force which constantly pulls down on us. We spend our lives exerting equal but opposite force to resist succumbing to gravity's mysterious force field. At the end of our lives, gravitation wins, and we fall (cad). A cadaver is a fallen person.
8. **Unique** is a perfectly self-explanatory word. It means precisely what its stem **uni** (one) implies. There is only one. Something cannot be rather unique; either it is one-of-a-kind and is unique, or there are other such cases, and it is not unique.
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:

orthopedist : ortopeda

reincarnated : reincarnado

ingenious : ingenuo

crypt : cripta

cascade : cascada

decapitate : decapitar

unique : único

ethics : ética

indigenous : indígeno

The Word Within the Word • Classic Words #10

In each case below, one of the choices was really the word used by the author in the sentence provided. All of the choices can be found in the example words on the first page of this lesson. Your challenge is to decide which word the author used. This is not a test; it is more like a game, because more than one word choice may work perfectly well. See if you can use your sensitivity and intuition to guess correctly which word the author used. You may need a dictionary.

1. From Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*

I rejoice to hear so favorable and so _____ an account of my cousin Clifford.

- a. decadent
- b. loquacious
- c. ingenuous
- d. mutable

2. From James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

His life had brown to be a tissue of _____ and falsehood.

- a. subterfuge
- b. circumlocution
- c. capitulation
- d. eloquence

3. From Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*

He then walked up and down the room to keep his blood in motion, _____ as before.

- a. circumlocuting
- b. soliloquizing
- c. consecrating
- d. placating

4. From Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

How _____ are our feelings.

- a. mutable
- b. unique
- c. moribund
- d. nascent

5. From Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*

The tortoise and the frog are among the _____ and heralds of this season.

- a. ethnographies
- b. pedagogues
- c. pedestrians
- d. precursors