

**Advanced Vocabulary
for Gifted Secondary Students**

A sample chapter, Chapter One
of thirty chapters in
The Word Within the Word, Volume One

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The Word Within the Word • List #1

ante	<i>(before)</i>	antedate, antecedent, antebellum, anterior, ante meridiem, antepenult	<i>Latin</i>
anti	<i>(against)</i>	antiaircraft, antibody, anticlimax, anticline, antitoxin, antithesis	<i>Greek</i>
bi	<i>(two)</i>	bilateral, bicycle, binary, bimonthly, biped, bipolar, binocular, bicuspid	<i>Latin</i>
circum	<i>(around)</i>	circumnavigate, circumspect, circumvent, circumlocution, circus	<i>Latin</i>
com	<i>(together)</i>	combination, comfort, commensurate, common, complete, combo	<i>Latin</i>
con	<i>(together)</i>	contract, confidence, confine, confederate, conjunction, contact	<i>Latin</i>
de	<i>(down)</i>	deposit, descent, despicable, denounce, deduct, demolish, decrepit	<i>Latin</i>
dis	<i>(away)</i>	distract, distort, dispute, dissonant, disperse, dismiss, dissuade, disprove	<i>Latin</i>
equi	<i>(equal)</i>	equitable, equilateral, equivocate, equinox, equation, equilibrium	<i>Latin</i>
extra	<i>(beyond)</i>	extraterrestrial, extraordinary, extravagant, extrovert, extramural	<i>Latin</i>
inter	<i>(between)</i>	international, interdepartmental, interstellar, interject, interlude	<i>Latin</i>
intra	<i>(within)</i>	intracellular, intravenous, intracranial, intrastate, intrauterine	<i>Latin</i>
intro	<i>(into)</i>	introduce, introspective, introvert, introject, introrse, intromission	<i>Latin</i>
mal	<i>(bad)</i>	malevolent, malcontent, malicious, malign, malady, malapropism	<i>Latin</i>
mis	<i>(bad)</i>	misfit, mistake, misfortune, misfire, misdeed, misguided	<i>Germanic</i>
non	<i>(not)</i>	nonstop, nonprofit, nonconformity, nonplussed, nonchalant	<i>Latin</i>
post	<i>(after)</i>	postgraduate, posthumous, postscript, posterity, posterior, postlude	<i>Latin</i>
pre	<i>(before)</i>	prelude, preposition, premonition, premature, predict, predecessor	<i>Latin</i>
semi	<i>(half)</i>	semitone, semiaquatic, semicircle, semiweekly, semiannual, semiformal	<i>Latin</i>
sub	<i>(under)</i>	subterranean, subtract, subordinate, submarine, subterfuge, substantial	<i>Latin</i>
super	<i>(over)</i>	supervise, superb, superior, superfluous, supercilious, supernatural	<i>Latin</i>
syn	<i>(together)</i>	synthetic, synchronize, syndrome, synonym, synopsis, syntax	<i>Greek</i>
sym	<i>(together)</i>	sympathy, symbiosis, symbol, symmetry, symphony, symposium	<i>Greek</i>
tri	<i>(three)</i>	tricycle, triangle, triceps, triad, trichotomy, triceratops, trivia, trialogue	<i>Greek</i>
un	<i>(not)</i>	unfit, unequal, undone, unequivocal, unearned, unconventional	<i>Old English</i>

de

down • away • from

The Latin stem **de**, which we define as meaning *down*, actually can have a wide variety of meanings, and is a relative of the stem **dis**. Though **de** often means down, it can mean *away, off, from, entirely*, or even *undo*. Here are some of the interesting words that contain **de** in its various shades of meaning:

- debacle:** an overwhelming defeat. Alexander's attack was a debacle for Darius.
- debark:** to get off of a ship or airplane. They debarked immediately.
- debauch:** to lead astray morally. Dorian's life was increasingly debauched.
- debris:** rubble or fragments. The barbarians lived in the debris of Rome.
- decamp:** to depart suddenly or secretly. In the night, the enemy had decamped.
- declivity:** a downward slope. The horses stumbled down the declivity.
- defalcate:** to embezzle funds. He had defalcated the funds and vanished.
- defeasible:** that can be undone or voided. The provision proved to be defeasible.
- defoliate:** to strip of leaves. The chemical defoliated most of the jungle.
- deliquesce:** to melt down. In the movie, the villain's face deliquesced in the blast.
- demure:** modest or affectedly modest. Her demure pretensions fooled no one.
- denizen:** an inhabitant. The denizens of the forest could be heard in the night.
- depravity:** wickedness. The depravity of the criminal was beyond belief.
- depredation:** plundering. Ghengis Kahn's depredations terrified the villages.
- deracinate:** to pull up by the roots. He weeded with deracinating frenzy.
- deride:** to ridicule. He mercilessly derided the new student.
- derogate:** to detract. Why derogate another's reputation?
- desecrate:** to profane what is sacred. Vandals had desecrated the shrine.
- desiccate:** to dry completely. The desiccated apples fell out of the package.
- desideratum:** something considered essential. Our primary desideratum was cost.
- desperado:** an outlaw. The cove was a haven for desperadoes and escapees.

The Word Within the Word • Sentences #1

1. The Civil War **antedates** the Korean War by decades.
2. The **antiaircraft** fire shot down the enemy planes.
3. The two nations have a **bilateral** agreement.
4. The **circumspect** spy is difficult to catch.
5. The two together are an interesting **combination**.
6. He was **confined** to the asteroid's detention center.
7. The lunar lander **descended** through the atmosphere.
8. His attention was easily **distracted**.
9. She made an **equilateral** triangle with three straws.
10. It was an **extraordinary** achievement.
11. They were lost in **interstellar** space.
12. He received an **intravenous** solution through a tube in his arm.
13. The boy was a lonely **introvert** who kept to himself.
14. He looked fearfully at the glowing, **malevolent** demon.
15. He had the **misfortune** to forget his wallet.
16. The foundation is a **nonprofit** organization.
17. She added a **postscript** at the bottom of the letter.
18. Before Romeo left, Juliet had a frightening **premonition**.
19. The circle was divided into two equal **semicircles**.
20. The lieutenant gave a sharp order to her **subordinate**.
21. The talkative fool made several **superfluous** comments.
22. Please **synchronize** your watches at this time.
23. The **symbiotic** species could not survive without each other.
24. Rome was sometimes ruled by a **triumvirate**.
25. **Unearned** income must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

The Word Within the Word • Mystery Spelling #1

introvert	intro vert
supervise	super vise
circumvent	circum vent
synchronize	syn chron ize
symphony	sym phon y
postscript	post script
circumspect	circum spect
unequivocal	un equi voc al
sympathy	sym path y
intracellular	intra cell ul ar
submarine	sub mar ine
nonconformity	non con form ity
introspective	intro spect ive
equilateral	equi lat eral
semiaquatic	semi aqua tic
symbiosis	sym bio sis
dissonant	dis son ant
interstellar	inter stell ar
posthumous	post hum ous
superfluous	super flu ous
intravenous	intra ven ous
introject	intro ject
equinox	equi nox
subtract	sub tract

The Word Within the Word • Mystery Questions #1

1. Does a father's birthday **antedate** his son's?
2. Does an **anticlimax** enhance a play's conclusion?
3. Can the president make a **bilateral** decision by himself?
4. Does a drill sergeant encourage troops to **circumvent** rules?
5. Is a **distortion** a faithful account of what happened?
6. Is your **subordinate** your boss?
7. Is a **superfluous** comment unnecessary?
8. Can a book record your thoughts for **posterity**?
9. Do you mistrust a person who **equivocates**?
10. Are **symbiotic** creatures mortal enemies?

ANSWERS

1. Yes, it dates before (ante) the son's.
2. No, it works against (anti) the conclusion's drama.
3. No, a bilateral decision must be two (bi) sided (lat).
4. No, he doesn't want them going around (circum) the rules.
5. No, in a distortion the story is twisted (tort) away (dis).
6. No, the subordinate belongs to a lower (sub) order (ord).
7. Yes, it is an over (super) flow (flu).
8. Yes, posterity is the population that comes after (post) you.
9. Yes, we mistrust one who gives equal (equi) voice (voc) to both sides of an issue.
10. No, symbiotic creatures spend their lives (bio) together (sym).

The Word Within the Word • Ideas #1

SYNTHESIS:

1. Invent three words that each combine two or more of the stems on List #1. Write definitions for these words.
2. Write a paragraph about an **intracranial** operation, and use at least ten example words from List #1 in your paragraph.

DIVERGENCE:

1. List as many words as you can think of that contain the stem **pre**. Keep listing until you find unexpected, creative examples.
2. How many things can you think of that need to be **synchronized**?

ANALYSIS:

1. What is the difference between **interstate** highways and intrastate highways? Explain by examining parts of the words.
2. If **nav** means ship, explain the origin of the word **circumnavigate**.

EVALUATION:

1. Are politicians morally obligated to speak **unequivocally**, or do they have a practical right to be equivocal in order to be elected?
2. It is wrong to be an **introvert**, or is it just a matter of style? Is it better to be sociable? Should you force yourself to socialize if you feel like being alone?

INTUITION:

1. What images flash in your mind when you hear the following words: **preschool**, **misfortune**, **symbol**, **deposit**, **interstellar**, and **descent**?
2. If you could do something truly **extraordinary**, what would it be?

The Word Within the Word • Analogies #1

1. **antebellum : belligerency ::**
antiaircraft : aircraft
nonstop : continuous
cause : effect
morning : afternoon
2. **interstellar : stellar ::**
submarine : marine
interstate : intrastate
mortar : bricks
intracellular : cell
3. **superfluous : inadequate ::**
excess : insufficiency
malevolence : benevolence
superior : mediocre
euphony : cacophony
4. **supercilious : idolizing ::**
depression : euphoria
condescension : admiration
synthesis : antithesis
zenith : nadir
5. **circumvent : comply ::**
noncooperation : complaisance
superior : subordinate
preposition : position
circumnavigate : navigate
6. **ancestry : posterity ::**
eohippus : horse
intracranial : cranial
anteroom : gazebo
syncline : anticline
7. **antecedent : precedent ::**
grammar : law
circumlocution : equivocation
malaprop : malevolence
inspection : introspection
8. **prenatal : posthumous ::**
bilateral : unilateral
pathogen : syndrome
intravenous : vein
subterfuge : evasion
9. **biped : bicycle ::**
quadruped : automobile
rectangle : tetragon
binary : unitary
biceps : triceps
10. **circumspect : reckless ::**
circumlocution : equivocation
conjunction : disjunction
supercilious : despicable
homophone : homonym

The Word Within the Word • Analogies #1

1. antebellum : belligerency :: morning : afternoon
Temporal relationship, A precedes B. The **antebellum** period precedes the period of **belligerency** as the morning precedes the afternoon.
2. interstellar : stellar :: mortar : bricks
Spatial relationship, A between B. The **interstellar** region is located between the stars as mortar is located between the bricks.
3. superfluous : inadequate :: excess : insufficiency
Quantity. Too much vs. too little. A and B are opposites, and left and right are synonyms. **Superfluous** means excess, as **inadequate** means insufficient.
4. supercilious : idolizing :: condescension : admiration
A and B are opposites of attitude. Looking down vs. looking up to. Also, the right terms are synonyms of the left terms.
5. circumvent : comply :: noncooperation : complaisance
To **circumvent** is to avoid cooperation, to be **complaisant** is to wish to comply. A and B are opposites, and left and right are near-synonyms.
6. ancestry : posterity :: eohippus : horse
Temporal relationship, A before B. The eohippus is an ancestor of the horse.
7. antecedent : precedent :: grammar : law
Both mean go before, but **antecedent** refers to grammar and **precedent** to law. The left terms are specific examples of words used in the larger categories at right.
8. prenatal : posthumous :: pathogen : syndrome
Temporal relationship, A before B. The **prenatal** period precedes the **posthumous** period as the **pathogen** precedes the **syndrome**.
9. biped : bicycle :: quadruped : automobile
Two feet/two wheels, four feet/four wheels. The relationship is two-fold: numerical identity and foot vs. wheel.
10. circumspect : reckless :: conjunction : disjunction
Opposites. **Circumspect** is the opposite of **reckless** as **conjunction** is the opposite of **disjunction**.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #1

1. The interior of a word often contains a striking image that only a person who knows the meaning of the stems will enjoy. In the case of **circumspect**, which means cautious, we see the cautious person looking (spect) around (circum) for signs of danger.
2. Many other **spect** words contain memorable images. The **introspective** person is not merely thoughtful, but is looking inside himself. And we **respect** a person when something that person does causes us to look at him again in a new way.
3. Some words offer moments of humor. The person who **equivocates** is deliberately ambiguous, but we see in the word an image of someone having problems with his mouth as he attempts to give equal (equi) voice (voc) to both sides of an issue!
4. Depending upon how it is used, **introvert** contains an unsettling, sad image. The intro (into) vert (turn) is turned into himself—his back to the beautiful, unnoticed world.
5. Even familiar words take on new light at times. Why is a **preposition** called a preposition? Because of its position—it always (almost) comes at the beginning of a prepositional phrase. It occupies the PRE position.
6. The word **posthumous**, as in posthumous award, contains a portrait of tragedy. A posthumous award is only granted after (post) its recipient has been buried in the ground (humus).
7. The foolishness of a too-talkative person's excessive questions and comments is wittily described by the word **superfluous**. The talker has provided all of the comments that can be contained, and now the comments begin to over (super) flow (flu).
8. Can a word help to sharpen one's senses? The beauty of a symphony arises largely from just what the word **symphony** emphasizes; the musicians play their instruments in unison so that the sounds (phon) rise together (sym).
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:

semiannual : semianual
introduce : introducir
posterity : posteridad
superior : superior
superfluous : superfluo
malicious : malicioso

The Word Within the Word • Classic Words #1

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 F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

The _____ assumption was that on Sunday afternoon I had nothing better to do.

- a. commensurate
- b. supercilious**
- c. introverted
- d. symbiotic

2. From Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*

He was _____, evincing a confusion.

- a. equivocal
- b. circumspect
- c. equitable
- d. nonplussed**

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

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

- a. subterfuge**
- b. antithesis
- c. nonchalance
- d. introversion

4. From Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Inside the house lived a _____ phantom.

- a. subordinate
- b. superfluous
- c. malevolent**
- d. dissonant

The Word Within the Word • Test #1

MALady _____
INTRAcellular _____
BInary _____
SEMIcircle _____
DISmiss _____
ANTEcedent _____
NONstop _____
SUBmarine _____
UNdone _____
SUPERior _____
POSTerity _____
DEscend _____
CIRCUMnavigate _____

EXTRAterrestrial _____
INTROduction _____
EQUIlateral _____
TRIceps _____
CONtact _____
ANTIthesis _____
SYNtax _____
INTERnational _____
MIStake _____
COMmon _____
SYMpathy _____
PREschool _____

Questions just for fun:

Is an **intradepartmental** memo shared with members of other departments?

Was the **antebellum** period just after the Civil War?

Is the sun a **binary** star?

Would someone enjoy receiving a **posthumous** award?

Is a **superfluous** comment welcome?

Is **interstellar** space the space within a star?

Does an **equilateral** triangle have sides of equal length?

Is an **introvert** a sociable person?

Are **dissonant** sounds beautiful?

Do **symbiotic** species live solitary lives?

Does a **malevolent** being have good will towards all?

The Word Within the Word • Answer Key #1

MALady	<i>bad</i>	EXTRAterrestrial	<i>beyond</i>
INTRAcellular	<i>within</i>	INTROduction	<i>into</i>
BIrary	<i>two</i>	EQUilateral	<i>equal</i>
SEMIcircle	<i>half</i>	TRIceps	<i>three</i>
DISmiss	<i>away</i>	CONtact	<i>together</i>
ANTEcedent	<i>before</i>	ANTIthesis	<i>against</i>
NONstop	<i>not</i>	SYNtax	<i>together</i>
SUBmarine	<i>under</i>	INTERnational	<i>between</i>
UNdone	<i>not</i>	MIStake	<i>bad</i>
SUPERior	<i>over</i>	COMmon	<i>together</i>
POSTerity	<i>after</i>	SYMpathy	<i>together</i>
DEscend	<i>down</i>	PREschool	<i>before</i>
CIRCUMnavigate	<i>around</i>		

Questions just for fun:

Is an **intradepartmental** memo shared with members of other departments? No

Was the **antebellum** period just after the Civil War? No

Is the sun a **binary** star? No

Would someone enjoy receiving a **posthumous** award? No

Is a **superfluous** comment welcome? No

Is **interstellar** space the space within a star? No

Does an **equilateral** triangle have sides of equal length? Yes

Is an **introvert** a sociable person? No

Are **dissonant** sounds beautiful? No

Do **symbiotic** species live solitary lives? No

Does a **malevolent** being have good will towards all? No