| Ped | (foot or child) | orthopedist, pedagogue, centipede, expedition, pedestrian, pedestal | Latin |
| Mort | (death) | mortal, mortician, mortified, immortality, mortuary, moribund | Latin |
| Carn | (flesh) | carnivorous, incarnate, reincarnated, carnivorous, canary | Latin |
| Psych | (soul) | psychology, psychic, psychopathic, parapsychology, psycho | Greek |
| Ethno | (race or culture) | ethnocentric, ethnic group, ethnography, ethnologist | Greek |
| Gen | (origin) | genetics, hydrogen, engender, genetic, genial, indigenous | Greek |
| Nat | (born) | prenatal, native, natural, nativity, natal, perinatal | Latin |
| Paleo | (old) | paleozoic, paleolithic, paleontologist, paleoanthropic, paleography | Greek |
| Curs | (run) | cursive, discursive, incursion, precursor, cursory, cursorial, cursor | Latin |
| Crypt | (hidden) | cryptic, cryptologist, crypt, cryptogram, encrypt, cryptesthesia | Greek |
| Cad | (fall) | cascade, cadaver, cadence, cadenza, cadaverous, decadent | Latin |
| Capit | (head) | decapitate, capital, recapitulate, capitulation, capitulum | Latin |
| Loqu | (talk) | loquacious, circumlocution, eloquent, soliloquy, somniloquy, dialogue | Latin |
| Sacro | (holy) | sacrosanct, sacred, sacrifice, sacrament, sacrilege, consecrate | Latin |
| Uni | (one) | unicycle, universe, united, union, uniform, unison, unique, unicorn | Latin |
| Ness | (quality) | softness, redness, politeness, kindness, darkness, vagueness | Old English |
| Alt | (high) | altitude, alto, altimeter, altar, altocumulus, altiplano | Latin |
| Ics | (art) | politics, economics, aesthetics, graphics, ethics, calisthenics | Greek |
| Iso | (equal) | isothermal, isometric, isosceles, isomer, isocracy, isotope | Greek |
| Vert | (turn) | convert, revert, inverted, divert, vertex, controvert, extrovert, introvert | Latin |
| Ate | (cause) | domesticate, implicate, create, procreate, insinuate, placate, dominate | Latin |
| Cor | (heart) | core, concord, discord, misericord, cordial, courageous | Latin |
| Ess | (female) | lioness, empress, princess, baroness, seamstress, governess | Greek |
| Muta | (change) | mutant, mutation, mutagenic, mutable, transmutation, immutable | Latin |
| Fug | (flee) | centrifuge, fugitive, tempus fugit, subterfuge, refugee, fugue | Latin |
sub
under • beneath • below

The Latin stem sub, which we define as meaning under, actually has a wide variety of shades and is sometimes shortened to suc, suf, sus. sub, sup, sur, these are all underpended by the stem that follows it. Though sub often means under, it can mean beneath, below, or inferior, or every shade in between. 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 suffocate. 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.
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.
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 turn to 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.”
1. subterfuge : fugitive ::
circumlocution : orthopedist
politics : economics
lioness : empress
ingenuous : indigenous

2. unicycle : unique ::
fugitive : refugee
soliloquy : solitude
extrovert : introvert
ord : discord
dialogue : soliloquy
satyr : alternator
mutt : precursor
colloquy : monologue
aesthetics : graphics

3. domination : capitulation ::
decapitate : recapitulate
natal : perinatal
pedagogue : pedestrian
rule : surrender

4. aesthetics : ethics ::
convert : revert
sacrosanct : sacred
art : morals
economics : psychopathic

5. ethnologist : ethnic group ::
entomologist : altimeter
psychologist : altimeter
paleontologist : t-rex

6. consecration : sacrilege ::
fugitive : refugee
mutagenic : immutable
soliloquy : solitude
precursor : forerunner
extrovert : introvert
nascent : moribund
concord : discord
paleozoic : paleontologist

7. eloquent : soliloquy ::
ingenuous : progeny
mutagen : mutation
psychic : psychology
incarnate : carnival
grandiloquent : panegyric

8. softness : kindness ::
roughness : ingenuousness
somniloquy : discursive
decadence : cadence
cryptologist : encryption

9. lioness : carnivorous ::
extrovert : loquacious
convert : introvert
sacrifice : sanguinary
alto : cadenza
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 in circles (circum). But there are two main varieties of circumlocution. There is unintentional circumlocution in which someone 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 means to run (curs) away (dis) from him. 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 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 plods along on foot (ped), altitude zero, speed 1 mph.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

   orthopedist : ortopeda
   reincarnated : reincarnado
   ingenious : ingenuo
   crypt : cripta
   cascade : cascada
   decapitate : decapitar
   unique : único
   ethics : ética
   indigenous : indígeno

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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 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