

The Word Within the Word • List 31

• mal	(bad)	malapropism	• non	(not)	nonplussed
• post	(after)	postlude	• <i>archy</i>	(government)	hierarchy
• <i>port</i>	(carry)	portly	• inter	(between)	interdiction
• dict	(say)	benediction	• vid	(look)	vide
• omni	(all)	omnibus	• <i>mono</i>	(one)	monolithic
• <i>lith</i>	(rock)	monolithic	• pond	(weight)	imponderable
• bene	(good)	benediction	• in	(not)	incredulous
• cred	(believe)	incredulous	• sci	(know)	omniscient
• <i>neo</i>	(new)	neophyte	• <i>phyte</i>	(plant)	neophyte
• uni	(one)	unilateral	• lat	(side)	unilateral

malapropism •(ludicrous misuse of a word) His malapropisms amused us.

nonplussed (perplexed) He was nonplussed by the unexpected question.

postlude (concluding section) It was a tragic postlude to her long life.

hierarchy (ranking) There must be a hierarchy of values.

portly (stout) The portly doorman carried himself gracefully.

interdiction (prohibition) The judge's interdiction stopped the construction.

vide (see) Vide Johnson's definition of politics on page 35.

omnibus (covering many things) The omnibus legislative bill passed.

monolithic (massive and uniform) The monolithic totalitarian society revolted.

imponderable (difficult to ponder) He tried to weigh the imponderable issue.

benediction (blessing) The grandfather's benediction made them happy.

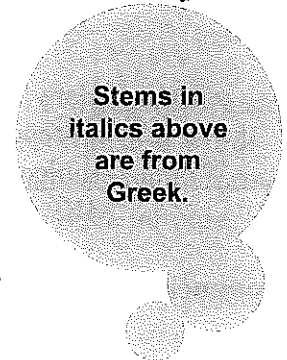
incredulous (not believing) Her incredulous face revealed her mistrust.

omniscient (all-knowing) The story was told from an omniscient point of view.

neophyte (beginner) The graduate was a neophyte in the business world.

unilateral (one-sided) The unilateral decision required no conference.

LOOK



Times Roman are Latin stems



Bolded stems didn't appear in last year's course

The Word Within the Word • List 32

• <i>hypo</i>	(under)	hypothecate	• <i>hetero</i>	(different)	heterodox
• <i>dox</i>	(opinion)	heterodox	• <i>pater</i>	(father)	paterfamilias
• <i>put</i>	(think)	putative	• <i>ver</i>	(true)	aver
• <i>mega</i>	(large)	megaton	• <i>sanguis</i>	(blood)	sangfroid
• <i>alter</i>	(other)	altercation	• <i>ego</i>	(I)	alter ego
• <i>contra</i>	(against)	contravene	• <i>ven</i>	(come)	contravene
• <i>con</i>	(together)	confluence	• <i>flu</i>	(flow)	confluence
• <i>circum</i>	(around)	circumlocute	• <i>loqu</i>	(talk)	circumlocution
• <i>sol</i>	(alone)	soliloquy	• <i>moll</i>	(soft)	mollify
• <i>fy</i>	(make)	mollify	• <i>greg</i>	(group)	gregarious
• <i>ous</i>	(full of)	gregarious	• <i>tion</i>	(act or state)	altercation

hypothecate (pledge as security) Hypothecate the land as security.

heterodox (unorthodox) He was criticized for his heterodox opinions.

paterfamilias (male head of family) Please consult with the paterfamilias.

putative (thought-to-be) He was the putative leader of the mafia.

aver (affirm or declare) He had seen nothing, he averred to the prosecutor.

megaton (force of a million tons of dynamite) A ten-megaton bomb exploded in the desert.

sangfroid (cold-blooded composure) She performs with cool sangfroid in emergencies.

alter ego (second self) She was not just a friend but an alter ego to me.

altercation (heated dispute) Talleyrand heard the noisy altercation in the streets.

contravene (go against) Do not contravene a command intentionally.

confluence (a flowing together) The U.S. is a confluence of many peoples and cultures.

circumlocution (talking in circles) His circumlocution of the issue rankled the audience.

soliloquy (speech to oneself) He roamed the kitchen in humorous soliloquy.

mollify (make soft) We need to mollify the client's resentment.

gregarious (sociable) The warm host had a gregarious personality.

Stems in
regular Times
Roman are
from Latin.

The Word Within the Word • List 33

• de	(down)	declaim	• clam	(cry out)	declaim
• voc	(voice)	sotto voce	• trans	(across)	translucent
• luc	(light)	translucent	• fort	(strong)	forte, fortissimo
• acr	(sharp)	acerbity	• per	(through)	perambulate
• ambul	(walk)	perambulate	• fid	(faith)	perfidy
• pugn	(fight)	impugn	• non	(not)	non sequitur
• sequ	(follow)	non sequitur	• ego	(I)	egocentric
• centri	(center)	egocentric	• loqu	(talk)	loquacious
• ous	(full of)	loquacious	• sacro	(holy)	sacrosanct
• sanct	(holy)	sacrosanct	• caco	(bad)	cacophony
• phon	(sound)	cacophony	• tang	(touch)	tangible

declaim (speak rhetorically) The pompous opponents declaimed rhetorically.

sotto voce (in a low voice) He tried to inform her, *sotto voce*, of the problem.

translucent (semitransparent) The glass was translucent, not completely transparent.

forte (strong point) Spelling is not his forte. (Pronounced *fort*; *fortay* is for music.)

fortissimo (very loudly) The orchestra played a thunderous fortissimo passage.

acerbity (sharpness of temper) His constant acerbity was demoralizing.

perambulate (wander through) The boy perambulated through the park.

perfidy (breach of faith) We deplored the scoundrel's perfidious act.

impugn (attack as false) Another witness impugned his testimony.

non sequitur (an idea that does not follow) The idea was a ludicrous *non sequitur*.

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egocentric (self-centered) His egocentric conversation became boring.

loquacious (talkative) We avoided the loquacious chatterbox.

sacrosanct (sacred) The second rule is sacrosanct and inviolable.

cacophony (bad noise) We heard the cacophonous blaring of the horns in the street below.

tangible (touchable) The nice office is a tangible benefit of the job.



Latin phrases
should be
placed in
italics.

The Word Within the Word • List 34

• dict	(say)	obiter dictum	• sequ	(follow)	obsequious
• bas	(low)	abase	• path	(feeling)	pathetic fallacy
• nihil	(nothing)	nihilism	• ism	(doctrine)	nihilism
• muta	(change)	mutatis mutandis	• inter	(between)	interstices
• terr	(land)	terra incognita	• in	(in or not)	inanimate (not)
• cogn	(know)	terra incognita	• sed	(sit)	sedate
• re	(again)	retort	• tort	(twist)	retort
• super	(over)	supersede	• anim	(mind)	inanimate
• de	(down)	declaim	• epi	(on)	epigram
• gram	(writing)	epigram	• ob	(against)	obsequious
• obit	(death)	obiter dictum			

obiter dictum (passing remark) I liked the judge's *obiter dictum* on politics.

obsequious (servilely following) He's an obsequious, fawning flatterer; he is a toady.

abase (to lower) You abase yourself when you always agree.

pathetic fallacy (ascribing feelings to things) Example: It is a lonely sea tonight.

rationation (methodical thinking) Her ratiocinations won the point.

mutatis mutandis (with necessary changes) Type this letter, *mutatis mutandis*.

interstice (small space) Wind blew through the wall's interstices, and the candle flickered.

terra incognita (unknown land) He knew not the *terra incognita* of his own emotions.

sedate (calm) The Count's sedate good manners charmed us all, alas.

retort (swift reply) She was famous for her devastatingly witty retorts.

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nihilism (belief in nothing) The new convert forsook his former nihilism.

supersede (replace) This procedure supersedes our former process.

inanimate (lifeless) Inanimate objects tell no tales, but many animate objects have tails.

condescend (lower oneself) His condescending remarks insulted the guest.

epigram (witty comment) She enjoyed his spontaneously brilliant epigram on the topic.