

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, deplete	<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, malonym	<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, untenable	<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.
- debar:** 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 **sympiotic** 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 • 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 • 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