
The Word Within the Word • List #11

-i	<i>(plural)</i>	bacilli, fungi, nuclei, alumni, magi, octopi, gemini, homunculi, literati	<i>Latin</i>
jus	<i>(law)</i>	justice, justify, unjust, jus soli, judiciary	<i>Latin</i>
lum	<i>(light)</i>	luminary, luminous, illuminate, luminiferous, superluminous	<i>Latin</i>
ann	<i>(year)</i>	annual, superannuated, anniversary, annuity, perennial	<i>Latin</i>
apo	<i>(away or up)</i>	apotheosis, apogee, apoplexy, apology, aphelion, apostasy	<i>Greek</i>
sen	<i>(old)</i>	senile, senior, senator, seniority, senescent	<i>Latin</i>
sol	<i>(alone)</i>	solitude, solitary, solo, soliloquy, desolate, solipsism, solifidian, consolidate	<i>Latin</i>
bas	<i>(low)</i>	bass, base, basic, basal, bassoon, debase, contrabase, abase, bas-relief	<i>Latin</i>
rogat	<i>(ask)</i>	interrogation, abrogate, derogatory, arrogate, supererogatory	<i>Latin</i>
parl	<i>(speak)</i>	parliament, parley, parlor, parlance, parlando	<i>Latin</i>
potent	<i>(power)</i>	potential, potentiometer, potentate, plenipotentiary, omnipotent	<i>Latin</i>
surg	<i>(rise)</i>	resurgence, insurgence, surge, surgent	<i>Latin</i>
log	<i>(word or reason)</i>	logic, neologism, philologist, logician, illogical, monologue	<i>Greek</i>
gram	<i>(writing)</i>	telegram, pentagram; hexagram, hologram, grammar	<i>Greek</i>
cant	<i>(sing)</i>	recant, cantata, incantation, descant, canticle, canto	<i>Latin</i>
reg	<i>(rule)</i>	regal, regiment, regulate, regent, interregnum, regicide, regime	<i>Latin</i>
pro	<i>(forward)</i>	provide, pronounce, program, prognosticate, prospect, prognosis, prolix	<i>Greek</i>
gyn	<i>(woman)</i>	androgynous, gynecologist, polygyny, misogynist, gynophobia	<i>Greek</i>
ag	<i>(to do)</i>	agile, agent, agency, agitate, aggression, aggrade, agree	<i>Latin</i>
act	<i>(to do)</i>	transact, react, action, activate, abreact, counteract, interact	<i>Latin</i>
mob	<i>(move)</i>	mobility, mobile, immobile, mobilize, demobilize	<i>Latin</i>
sess	<i>(sit)</i>	session, sessile, inessorial, sessility, obsessed	<i>Latin</i>
fic	<i>(make)</i>	fortification, fiction, prolific, horrific, soporific	<i>Latin</i>
nounce	<i>(tell)</i>	denounce, pronounce, announce, renounce, enunciate	<i>Latin</i>
andro	<i>(man)</i>	androgynous, android (droid), androgens, androphobia, polyandry	<i>Greek</i>

trans

across • over • through

The Latin stem **trans**, which we define as meaning *across*, actually can have a wide variety of meanings, and is sometimes shortened to **tra**. Though **trans** often means *across*, it can mean *over*, *beyond*, *through*, or *on the other side*. In chemistry, **trans** refers to isomers that have certain atoms or groups of atoms on opposite sides of a molecule. Here are some of the interesting words that contain **trans** in its various shades of meaning:

transalpine:	across the Alps. The Romans never suspected a transalpine invasion.
transect:	to cut across. The line he drew transected the polygon.
transitory:	not permanent. It was an intense but transitory romance.
transmute:	to change form. The transmutation in his personality amazed us all.
transpicuous:	clearly understandable. The transpicuous explanation settled the point.
transilient:	leaping from thing to thing. It was a day of abrupt, transilient changes.
transgress:	to overstep. Their reactions showed he had transgressed some invisible line.
transfix:	to impale. Prufrock felt transfixed and wriggling on the wall.
transmigration:	reincarnation. They believed in the transmigration of souls.
transubstantiate:	change substance. She accepted the transubstantiation of the bread and wine.
travesty:	a farcical imitation. The grotesque travesty distorted his good intentions.
transverse:	crosswise. The transverse beam gave a cross-like appearance to the pillar.
transcribe:	write out. They carefully transcribed the conversation for distribution.
transpontine:	across the bridge. She gazed at the transpontine bustle across the Thames.
transpire:	to release vapor. The space suit recycled the body's transpired moisture.
transit:	passage. Something happened to the letters in transit; they never arrived.
transfigure:	change appearance. The frog was transfigured into a handsome prince.
traduce:	to defame. He was vilified and traduced by the obnoxious Philistines.
traffic:	wrongful trade. The traffic in surplus weapons benefited the rebel force.
trajectory:	flight path. He studied the trajectories of the cannon balls.
trance:	a fixed consciousness. He gazed at the board with a trance-like expression.

The Word Within the Word • Sentences #11

1. Do **bacilli** and **fungi** have **nuclei** in their cells?
2. Can a system of **justice** ever be unjust?
3. The **luminous** moonlight **illuminated** the aluminum sculpture.
4. The **superannuated** doorman celebrated his fiftieth anniversary.
5. At the satellite's **apogee** we could not find it with binoculars.
6. The **senior** class president befriended the not-so-**senile** old man.
7. On his **solo** transcontinental flight, he enjoyed the **solitude**.
8. **Basic** instructions are included with each new **bassoon**.
9. The **interrogation** was **derogatory** in tone.
10. Several members of **Parliament** had a **parley** in the **parlor**.
11. The **plenipotentiary** met twice with the **potentate**.
12. The **surge** of the sea portended the **resurgence** of violence.
13. The **philologist** delighted in inventing **neologisms**.
14. The **grammar** in the **telegram** was not correct.
15. During the holy man's **incantation**, the spirit began to appear.
16. There were no **regal** ceremonies in the **interregnum**.
17. The doctor's **prognosis** was not favorable.
18. The musician's **androgynous** appearance was widely imitated.
19. The **secret agent** spilled the deadly chemical agent.
20. There may be little time to **act** or **react**.
21. When the National Guard was **mobilized**, the **mobile** units were ready.
22. Dozens of chairs were arranged for the **general session**.
23. Is that wall supposed to be **beautification** or **fortification**?
24. **Pronounce** your **announcement** clearly.
25. The metal **android** grappled with the furry **anthropoid**.

1. A person of great power is sometimes known as a **potentate** (potent: power). What if a potentate requires an important business transaction to be made but cannot personally travel to conclude the transaction? In that event, the potentate may send a **plenipotentiary**, a person with full (pleni) power (potent) to transact any business.
2. Students are accustomed to studying and memorizing Hamlet's and Macbeth's famous **soliloquies**, but perhaps the students don't realize that they too give soliloquies every time they talk (loqu) while alone (sol).
3. A Micropoem: Imagine a music teacher telling a student to sing a song again until he sings it correctly. This is the somewhat humiliating idea behind the word **recant**. When Galileo asserted that the solar system was heliocentric (sun-centered), he was forced to recant by the church. Literally, he was forced to sing (cant) the tune again (re)—this time geocentrically.
4. Many scientific terms such as **apogee**, **aphelion**, **perigee**, and **perihelion** are self-defining—one need only understand their construction. The moon reaches apogee when it is farthest away (apo) from the earth (geo). The earth reaches aphelion when it is farthest away (apo) from the sun (helio). Perigee and perihelion are the opposite terms and simply mean near (peri) to the earth and sun. What does Halley's Comet look like at perihelion?
5. Some people have trouble keeping the terms **fiction** and **nonfiction** apart. It is easy to remember which is which, however, once you realize that fiction is the stuff we make (fic). Fiction is made-stuff, and nonfiction is not-made-stuff!
6. Some of the younger senators might be momentarily nonplussed (baffled) to learn that the word **senator** is closely related to the word **senile**. A senate was originally a council of old men who used the wisdom of age to deliberate. In modern times not all senators are old (sen).
7. Consider the stems **logy** and **log**. It is convenient to separate them and to maintain that **logy** means science but **log** means either word or reason. But are these ideas really as distinct as they seem? Probably not. There are profound connections and areas of overlap among words, reason, and science. Could there be reason without words, or is reasoning a form of wording? Isn't science primarily the intense use of reason to create and arrange words? Don't almost all words using **log** or **logy** bear some deep relationship to all three definitions? It is important to make convenient distinctions, but it is also important to explore profound relations.
8. **Supererogatory** is an interesting, double-edged word. It means above (super) what is asked (rogat). One can perform saint-like supererogatory services to mankind, or one can be wasteful and superfluous in performing needless supererogatory repetitions of an experiment.
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:

justice : justicia
luminary : luminaria
senile : senil
parliament : parlamento
omnipotent : omnipotente
neologism : neologismo
androgynous : andrógeno
agile : ágil
android : androide