

The Word Within the Word • List #14

pleo	<i>(more)</i>	pleomorphic, pleonasm, pleochroic, Pliocene, pleophagous, pleopod	<i>Greek</i>
pod	<i>(foot)</i>	pseudopod, arthropod, diplopoda, cephalopod, podiatrist, gastropod	<i>Greek</i>
soror	<i>(sister)</i>	sorority, sororicide, sorosis, sororize, sororal, sorites	<i>Latin</i>
-a	<i>(plural)</i>	data, phenomena, bacteria, Cephalopoda, phyla, effluvia, trivia, Nematoda	<i>Greek</i>
val	<i>(worth)</i>	valiant, valid, equivalent, devaluate, evaluate, ambivalent, covalent	<i>Latin</i>
para	<i>(beside, near)</i>	parable, parapsychology, parabola, paradigm, paradox, paraphrase	<i>Greek</i>
dom	<i>(rule)</i>	dominate, predominant, dominion, domineering, subdominant, domain	<i>Latin</i>
erg	<i>(work)</i>	energy, ergonomics, erg-second, ergatocracy, exergonic, synergy	<i>Greek</i>
rhiz	<i>(root)</i>	rhizoid, rhizome, rhizomorphous, rhizophagous, rhizanthous	<i>Greek</i>
sapro	<i>(rotten)</i>	saprophytic, saprophyte, saprogenic, saprolite, saprophilous	<i>Greek</i>
schizo	<i>(divide)</i>	Schizomycetes, schizophrenia, schism, schizocarp, schizoid, schizopod	<i>Greek</i>
hippo	<i>(horse)</i>	hippopotamus, hippodrome, hippogriff, hipparch, eohippus	<i>Greek</i>
som	<i>(body)</i>	somatic, chromosome, lysosome, somatoplasm, psychosomatic, somatology	<i>Greek</i>
spor	<i>(seed)</i>	endospore, sporophyte, sporangia, Sporozoa, sporogenesis, macrospore	<i>Greek</i>
sta	<i>(stop)</i>	hemostat, stasis, station, stationary, status quo, apostasy, hypostatize, static	<i>Latin</i>
rhodo	<i>(rose)</i>	rhododendron, rhodolite, Rhode Island, rhodium	<i>Greek</i>
taxis	<i>(arrangement)</i>	syntax, chemotaxis, taxidermy, phyllotaxis, taxonomy, ataxia	<i>Greek</i>
vol	<i>(will)</i>	volunteer, malevolent, benevolent, volition, involuntary	<i>Latin</i>
frat	<i>(brother)</i>	fraternity, fraternal, fratricide, fraternize	<i>Latin</i>
trich	<i>(hair)</i>	monotrichous, trichina, trichocysts, trichinosis, trichosis	<i>Greek</i>
troph	<i>(nourishment)</i>	autotroph, eutrophication, atrophy, dystrophy, trophism	<i>Greek</i>
tox	<i>(poison)</i>	toxin, toxoid, nontoxic, antitoxin, detoxification, toxicity, phytotoxins	<i>Greek</i>
sect	<i>(cut)</i>	dissect, intersection, vivisection, bisect, section, sectarian, sector	<i>Latin</i>
zygo	<i>(yoke)</i>	zygote, zygospore, zygodactyl, zygomorphic, zygooid, zygoptera	<i>Greek</i>
zym	<i>(ferment)</i>	enzyme, zymology, zymurgy, zymogenesis, zymoscope, zymogen	<i>Greek</i>

dis

away • apart • not • cease

The Latin stem *dis*, which we define as meaning *away*, actually can have a wide variety of meanings, and is sometimes shortened to *di* or *dif*. Though *dis* often means *away*, it can mean *apart*, *not cease*, *opposite of*, *lack of*, or even *fail*. Here are some of the interesting words that contain *dis* in its various shades of meaning:

disavow:	disclaim. Iago disingenuously disavowed any suspicion of Desdemona.
disclose:	to reveal. She heroically refused to disclose her friends' names to McCarthy.
discord:	conflict. Discord among the Hausa, Fulani, and Ibo divided Nigeria.
disembosom:	to reveal oneself. The pitiful monster disembosomed himself to his maker.
disfigure:	to deform. Snow, Auden wrote, disfigured the public statues.
dislodge:	to drive out. Lee's army could not dislodge Union forces from their positions.
disgruntle:	to peeve. Jove was disgruntled by the bellicose Ares.
disorient:	to confuse. Henry Fleming was disoriented by the blow.
dissimulate:	to pretend. Prospero glared at the odious and dissimulating Caliban.
distraught:	extremely upset. Heathcliff was distraught with grief over Catherine's death.
dissipate:	to scatter. At last the storm began to dissipate, and the sea began to calm.
disseminate:	to distribute widely. Luther's theses were disseminated all over Europe.
dissuade:	to persuade against. Calpurnia could not dissuade Caesar from going.
disputant:	one who debates. In Plato's <i>Dialogues</i> , Socrates is the major disputant.
disparage:	to belittle. Blind and disparaging remarks were made about Lincoln's speech.
disrepute:	disgrace. Gandhi's Satyagraha placed British imperialism in disrepute.
disquiet:	to make uneasy. At first Macbeth was disquieted by the witches' prophesy.
dispirit:	to depress. The gladiator's victory dispirited the Roman crowd.
disparity:	difference in amount. The disparity in their ages was no obstacle to her.
dissever:	separate. Southern states attempted to dissever themselves from the Union.
distaste:	aversion. Mr. Hyde's truculent visage engendered a feeling of distaste.

1. A **pleochroic** crystal shows different colors from different directions.
2. The **podiatrist** couldn't treat the injured **arthropod**; he only treated humans.
3. The **sorority** was located between two fraternities.
4. The **data** revealed not one phenomenon but several **phenomena**.
5. The valedictory address contained **valid** arguments and **evaluations**.
6. The **parapsychologist** told a **parable** that contained a **paradox**.
7. The baron was **dominant** over his entire **dominion**.
8. Do the workers in this country want a meritocracy or an **ergatocracy**?
9. **Rhizophagous** jungle animals dig up and feed on delicious **rhizomes**.
10. **Saprogenic** bacteria soon caused the material to decay.
11. The **schism** in the party could not be healed before the election.
12. In **Mesopotamia**, the **hippopotamus** is allowed to use the **hippodrome**.
13. Did his **chromosome** problem have a **psychosomatic** cause?
14. The **Sporozoa** are **Protozoa** that multiply by **sporogenesis**.
15. The people in the **station** voted to preserve the **status quo**.
16. The **rhododendron** was in bloom on the high mountainsides.
17. The **taxidermist** was interested in the **taxonomy** of animal species.
18. The new **volunteer** had a curious, **malevolent** expression.
19. The candidate tried to **fraternize** with the local politicians.
20. **Trichinosis** is a disease caused by the **trichina** worm.
21. His muscles had begun to **atrophy** from disuse.
22. The high **toxicity** of the **toxin** made a powerful **antitoxin** necessary.
23. **Dissection** is legal, but **vivisection** is not.
24. A **zygote** is the cell produced by the union (yoking) of two gametes.
25. If **zymology** is the science of enzymes, why is **zymurgy** winemaking?

The Word Within the Word • Notes #14

1. After more than 2,000 years, we still ponder the famous paradox of Socrates, who knew that he knew nothing. We use the word **paradox** to refer to a seemingly self-contradictory statement which nevertheless regarded as true. Why does the word **paradox** have that meaning? Because in a paradox, the two contradictory-sounding opinion (dox) are placed right beside (para) each other. Zeno's paradox is that if you continually move *half* the distance toward something, you will never reach it!
2. In the operating room, the surgeon asks for a **hemostat**. The nurse hands her a metal tool that looks like a combination of scissors and tweezers. What is the purpose of a hemostat? To stop (sta) the bleeding (hemo).
3. There are democracies (people/rule) plutocracies (wealthy/rule), meritocracies (meritorious/rule), and hagiocracies (saints/rule). What is an **ergatocracy**? The workers (erg) rule.
4. The art by which specialists make wine or brew beer is known as **zymurgy**. Why? Because both require fermentation: zymurgy is the technology (urgy) of fermentation (zym).
5. A Micropoem: When you study biology, pity the poor **cephalopod**; it was born with its feet (pod) in its head (cephalo)!
6. Place a single cell in a slide and put it under the microscope. Turn on the light. What do you see? Not much, because the light is bright and the structures in the cell are translucent (clear). Now add a colorful dye to the solution that the cell is in. Certain structures inside the cell will absorb the color well so that you can study them. These bodies (som) that absorb the color (chrom) well are called the **chromosomes**, the color-bodies.
7. We say that green plants are **autotrophic**, which means that they are self-nourishing (auto: self, troph: nourishment). But in what sense are plants self-nourishing, since they seem to need water and fertilizer? The answer is that the water and minerals a plant takes in are not food. These things are simply inorganic substances that a plant changes into food by **photosynthesis**. Remember that **syn** means *together*; the plant's cells put these substances together (synthesize them). Since the plant uses light to effect this synthesis, the process is called **photosynthesis**. So a plant is self (auto) nourishing (troph) because it uses light (photo) to put food together (syn).
8. A Micropoem: The word **apostate** is graphically descriptive. An apostate is a person who forsakes his party, church, or cause. But there is a microdrama within the word: we see the apostate alone, standing (sta) away (apo) from the group he has deserted. An apostate is an away-stander. Note that both the stems, **apo** and **sta**, have alternate meanings. **Apo** may mean away or up, and **sta** may mean stand or stop.
9. The noun **paradigm** is pronounced para-DIME, not para-dijum. Be sure that you pronounce this word correctly!
10. **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:

paradigm : paradigma
paraphrase : parafrasear
static : estático
taxonomy : taxonomía
fraternity : fraternidad
trichinosis : triquinosis
toxin : toxina
sector : sector
enzyme : enzima