
The Word Within the Word • List #15

tropo	<i>(turn)</i>	heliotrope, troposphere, tropism, trophy, phototropism, apogeotropism	<i>Greek</i>
gastro	<i>(stomach)</i>	gastronomy, gastroscope, gastropod, gastroenteritis, hypogastric	<i>Greek</i>
arthro	<i>(joint)</i>	arthritis, arthropod, arthralgia, arthrospore, arthroscopic	<i>Greek</i>
ventri	<i>(belly)</i>	ventriloquist, ventral, ventricle, dorsoventral, ventriculus	<i>Latin</i>
dors	<i>(back)</i>	dorsal, dorsoventral, dorsum, dorsal fin	<i>Latin</i>
macro	<i>(large)</i>	macrobiotic, macrocephalic, macrocosm, macron, macroscopic	<i>Greek</i>
dextro	<i>(right or clockwise)</i>	dextrose, dextral, dexterity, dexterous, dextrorotation	<i>Latin</i>
brachy	<i>(short)</i>	brachycephalic, brachypterous, brachycranic, brachylogy	<i>Greek</i>
brachio	<i>(arm)</i>	brachiopod, brachiation, brachiate, brachium	<i>Greek</i>
branchio	<i>(gills)</i>	branchiopod, branchiate, branchia	<i>Greek</i>
kin	<i>(motion)</i>	kinetic, kinescope, hypokinesia, hyperkinetic, telekinesis	<i>Greek</i>
phylo	<i>(kind)</i>	phylum, phylogeny, phyla, phylogenesis, subphylum	<i>Greek</i>
blasto	<i>(embryo)</i>	blastocyst, blastogenesis, erythroblast	<i>Greek</i>
dactylo	<i>(finger)</i>	pterodactyl, dactylic, dactylology, dactylography	<i>Greek</i>
phos	<i>(light)</i>	phosphorus, phosphene, phosphoroscope, phosphoresce	<i>Greek</i>
gon	<i>(angle)</i>	pentagon, tetragon, decagon, hexagonal, diagonal, orthogonal	<i>Greek</i>
lite	<i>(mineral or fossil)</i>	anthracite, perlite, cryolite, stalactite, halite, coprolite	<i>Greek</i>
vore	<i>(eating)</i>	omnivore, herbivore, carnivore, voracious, devour, fructivorous	<i>Latin</i>
holo	<i>(whole)</i>	holocaust, hologram, holometabolous, holograph, holophrastic, holistic	<i>Greek</i>
haplo	<i>(single or simple)</i>	haploid, haplovia, haplosis, haplogy	<i>Greek</i>
opia	<i>(sight)</i>	myopia, hyperopia, hemeralopia, synopsis, diplopia, biopsy	<i>Greek</i>
lent	<i>(full of)</i>	corpulent, virulent, turbulent, excellent, succulent, insolent, indolent	<i>Latin</i>
ef	<i>(out)</i>	effusive, effulgent, efflux, efficacy, effeminate, effluvium, effluent	<i>Latin</i>
ium	<i>(an element)</i>	radium, sodium, uranium, germanium, iridium, einsteinium	<i>Latin</i>
dicho	<i>(in two parts)</i>	dichotomy, dichotomize, dichogamous, dichotomist	<i>Greek</i>

ex

out • beyond • without

The Latin stem *ex* is a relative of the Greek stem *exo*, and though we define *ex* as meaning *out*, it actually can have a wide variety of meanings, such as *beyond*, *without*, *upward*, *forth*, or even *thoroughly*. *Ex* is often shortened to *ef*, *e*, *ec*, or *es* before certain other letters. Here are some of the interesting words that contain *ex* in its various shades of meaning:

exalt:	to glorify. Since his ignominious death, Mozart has been exalted.
excogitate:	to think out. Newton solved the problem through lengthy excogitations.
exigent:	critical. The famine in the Sudan had developed into an exigent crisis.
exiguous:	meager. They scratched out an exiguous existence from the thin soil.
exordium:	the opening of a speech. She began with a moving exordium on human rights.
expurgate:	to censor. Bowdler even expurgated objectionable passage from Shakespeare.
expedient:	advantageous. Borgia's tactic may not have been ethical, but it was expedient.
effrontery:	impudence. The teacher gazed at Scout, amazed at her effrontery.
effigy:	a crude likeness. The crowd burned a scarecrow-like effigy of Quisling.
effete:	weak. He had declined into an effete simulacrum of his former self.
efface:	to erase. A thousand seasons had effaced the words from the stone.
eccentric:	unconventional. The eccentric tycoon lived in disregard of all convention.
essay:	to attempt. He essayed a precarious route across the rock face.
excerpt:	a selected passage. The excerpt was carefully chosen to distort his meaning.
exotic:	strangely beautiful. Her exotic beauty haunted him for many years.
explicate:	to explain completely. Yeats explicated his own passage from "Lake Isle."
extol:	to praise. Mark Antony came not to bury Caesar, but to extol his virtues.
extrinsic:	not inherent. Foreign language study has extrinsic as well as intrinsic merits.
exhume:	to unearth. The distraught Lincoln had his son's body exhumed one last time.
exile:	banishment. The emperor forced Ovid to live in exile from Rome.
exhilarate:	to invigorate. The arctic wind exhilarated his senses as he urged the dogs on.

The Word Within the Word • Sentences #15

1. In the **tropics** the leafy **heliotropes** turn toward the sun.
2. The **gastrologist** studies the stomach; the **gastronome** prepares the food.
3. The aged **arthropod** suffered from **arthritis** and **arthralgia**.
4. The popular **ventriloquist** had a heart operation on his left **ventricle**.
5. **Dorsiventral** leaves have distinct upper and lower surfaces.
6. The universe is sometimes referred to as the **macrocosm**.
7. Are right-handed people really more **dexterous**?
8. **Brachypterous** insects have short wings.
9. **Brachiate** trees have widely spreading branches in pairs, like arms.
10. The **branchiopods** are underwater crustaceans that breathe through gills.
11. The hyperkinetic little boy did not possess **telekinesis**, fortunately.
12. The vertebrate species *Homo sapiens* belongs to the Chordata **phylum**.
13. Reproduction by budding is also called **blastogenesis**.
14. If fingerprinting is **dactylography**, is sign language **dactylology**?
15. If you press your closed eyelids, you will see **phosphenes**.
16. What is the difference between a **pentagram** and a **pentagon**?
17. **Perlite** is a volcanic glass that resembles obsidian.
18. The **voracious carnivore** devoured the small **herbivore**.
19. The glowing **hologram** could be viewed from all sides.
20. The diploid structure divided into two **haploid** structures.
21. Far-sightedness is sometimes known as **hyperopia**.
22. For the **corpulent** boy, dieting was a **turbulent** and strenuous mental effort.
23. The **effeminate** host made an **effort** not to be **effusive**.
24. Which element does society more harm, **uranium** or **sodium**?
25. There is a sharp **dichotomy** between your ideas and mine.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #15

1. Close your eyes and press your eyelids with your hands. Small lights will appear and dance about. The lights will have various shapes. These lights (phos) which appear (phen) are called **phosphenes**. You sometimes see phosphenes when you stand up too fast.
2. The **ventriloquist** who entertains you on the television may be more skilled than you realize, if his name means anything. Literally, a ventriloquist is a belly (ventri) talker (loqu)! Do they make chap-stick for the stomach?
3. What is the difference between **arthritis** and **arthralgia**? Arthritis is the inflammation (itis) in the joints (arthro) which causes the joints (arthro) to hurt (algia). Did you hear the one about the arthropod who had arthritis?
4. In the Mesozoic era, 150,000,000 years ago, **pterodactyls** with forty-foot wingspans sailed over what is now called Arizona. Today the giant flying reptiles are reduced to petrified bone fragments in the hot desert sand. Why were the pterodactyls called **pterodactyls**? Because of the claws or fingers (dactylo) that appeared on their wings (pter). (I know what you're thinking, but you'd never get it housebroken!)
5. A Micropoem: Tough luck for the poor snails and other **gastropods**, which have to side around all day on their stomachs (gastro). Or is it on their foot (pod)? Or on their stomach-foot? Just thinking about it makes one glad to be a biped.
6. More and more American films are about (usually) young people who have the power of **telekinesis**, which allows them to do terrible violent things to other people just by thinking. **Telekinesis** means that you have the ability to move (kin) objects from far (tele) away. The very idea of tele- powers stirs one's creative fantasies; if only I could be tele voracious, for instance, I would practice and practice.
7. What is the difference between the **microcosm** and the **macrocosm**? A microcosm is the small (micro) universe (cosmo) inside (for example) a drop of pond water; a macrocosm is the large (macro) universe of galaxies.
8. You might think that **trophy** contains the stem **troph** (nourishment), but it doesn't. The stem is **trophy** is **trope** (turn), and it represents the award received for turning the enemy in battle, for forcing the enemy to reverse direction and retreat. Modern athletic trophies are cultural evolutions of the ancient trophies won on the fields of battle.
9. A **synopsis** is simply a summary, a brief review. It is a way of bringing everything together (syn) so that it can be seen (opia) at a glance.
10. Why does **gon** mean angle? It's a variation of the Greek **gony** (knee). A triangle has three knees, a rectangle four knees!
11. **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:

gastronomy : gastronomía
trophy : trofeo
arthritis : artritis
microbiotic : microbiótico
herbivore : herbívoro
myopia : miopía
corpulent : corpulento
effusive : efusivo
dichotomy : dicotomía