The Word Within the Word • List #16

Anglo	(English)	Anglophile, Anglophobe, Anglican, Anglicism, Anglo-Saxon	Latin
ist	(one who)	artist, funambulist, anthropologist, solipsist, centrist, atheist, sophist	Greek
saur	(lizard)	dinosaur, pterosaur, tyrannosaurus, stegosaurus, saurian, plesiosaur	Greek
pithec	(ape)	pithecanthropus, australopithecus, dryopithecus, oreopithecus	Greek
calli	(beautiful)	calligraphy, calliope, calisthenics, calliopsis, callithumpian	Greek
austro	(south)	australopithecus, Australia, austral, Austronesia, austromancy	Latin
cephalo	o (head)	cephalic, cephalopod, cephalothorax, microcephalic, encephalitis	Greek
chiro	(hand)	chiromancy, chiropody, chiropteran, chiropractor	Greek
caust	(burn)	caustic, holocaust, cauterize, caustically, causticity	Greek
terr	(land)	extraterrestrial, subterranean, Mediterranean, terrain, terra firma	Latin
cata	(down)	catapult, catastrophe, catacombs, catalepsy, cataclysm, cataract	Greek
jur	(swear)	abjure, adjure, perjure, jury, jurisdiction, jurisprudence, jurist	Latin
flu	(flow)	confluence, fluid, influence, fluent, superfluous, effluent, fluvial	Latin
here	(stick)	coherence, adhesive, adhere, inherent, incoherent	Latin
pos	(put)	position, deposit, superimpose, transpose, depose, imposition	Latin
mund	(world)	mundane, transmundane, intermundane, mundanity, mundo	Latin
cracy	(government)	autocracy, democracy, aristocracy, plutocracy, meritocracy	Greek
mania	(madness)	kleptomania, egomania, pyromania, dipsomania, megalomania	Greek
ize	(make)	victimize, harmonize, temporize, mobilize, fossilize, polarize, bowdlerize	Greek
antho	(flower)	anthology, anthozoan, anthocyanin, anthophilous, anther	Greek
algia	(pain)	neuralgia, analgesic, arthralgia, hemialgia, algometer, algophobia	Greek
somn	(sleep)	insomnia, somniferous, somnolent, somnambulate, somniloquy	Latin
quadr	(four)	quadruped, quadratic, quadrant, quadruplet, quadrilateral, quadriplegic	Latin
err	(wander)	error, erratic, Knight-errant, erroneous, erratum	Latin
sine	(without)	sinecure, sine qua non, sine die, sine prole	Latin

in

in • into / not • without

The Latin stem in, which we define as meaning in or not, actually can have a wide variety of meanings, and is sometimes changed to il, ir, or im in order to blend with the stem that follows it. Though we say for convenience that in means in or not, we might better regard these as two prefixes, one meaning in, into, with, on, toward, or as an intensive, and the other meaning not, without, or no. Here are some of the interesting words that contain in/in in their various shades of meaning:

incarnate: in the flesh. The egotist thought he was excellence incarnate.

inane: foolish. She grew tired of his inane objections to foreign customs.

incendiary: starting fire or strife. Trotsky's speech had an incendiary effect on the mob.

inclement: stormy. The game was postponed due to inclement weather.

incuse: stamped in. An incuse portrait of Alexander was stamped on the coin.

incubate: to develop. Whitman observed people as poems incubated in his mind.

inexpugnable: unconquerable. The position at Masada was nearly inexpugnable.

infrangible: unbreakable. Infrangible bonds bound Romeo and Juliet.

inhume: to bury. Jerry Cruncher exhumed bodies almost as fast as they were inhumed!

inhibit: to repress. The grandmaster inhibited her opponent into unwonted errors.

inquisition: harsh suppression. McCarthy's inquisitions make him a modern Torquemada.

innervate: stimulate to action. The near fall innervated him to new heights of effort.

insolent: egregiously disrespectful. The divergent idea was mistaken for insolence.

insomnia: sleeplessness. The vampire blamed his night-doings on chronic insomnia.

intaglio: in incised design. Unlike a cameo, the intaglio design was cut into the stone.

illative: producing an inference. He used illative words, such as therefore.

irreconcilable: incompatible. Irreconcilable differences proved to be their undoing.

immobile: motionless. Newton saw that an immobile object tends to remain immobile.

impalpable: too subtle to touch. The ideas were impalpable like smoke, and eluded him.

impayid: fearless. An impayid need for experience drove her to join the expedition.

impeccant: blameless. A special prosecutor must have an impeccant record.

The Word Within the Word • Sentences #16

- 1. He is a member of the Anglican church, but he is not an Anglophile.
- 2. The anthropologist studies human cultures the world over.
- 3. The pterosaur and pterodactyl were both flying dinosaurs.
- 4. Fossilized pithecanthropus and australopithecus skeletons were discovered.
- 5. Her calligraphy is ornate, like the music of the calliope.
- 6. The austral winds raised dust storms over the dry Australian outback.
- 7. The microcephalic boy held the cephalopod, a nautilus, in both hands.
- 8. The physician accused the chiropractor of practicing chiromancy.
- 9. The survivor of the holocaust made a caustic comment about social Darwinism.
- 10. The extraterrestrial admired the high terrain and the subterranean grottoes.
- 11. The cataract after the cataclysm caused a catastrophe in the catacombs.
- 12. The lying criminal perjured himself as the jury listened.
- 13. A fortunate confluence of influences made him fluent in Spanish.
- 14. The senator's adherents thought the opponent's speech was incoherent.
- 15. The corrupt ruler was deposed when his foreign bank deposits were discovered.
- 16. His mundane conversation bored her to tears.
- 17. Do we want a democracy and a meritocracy or a plutocracy for the aristocracy?
- 18. The host's egomania kept him from noticing the kleptomania of his guest.
- 19. He was victimized by his own ignorance of his civil rights.
- 20. The anthology article discussed the anthozoans, including the sea anemones.
- 21. The over-the-counter analgesic didn't help her arthralgia much.
- 22. The mayor's somniferous speech put even the insomniac to sleep.
- 23. The quadruped from Neptune gave birth to quadruplets.
- 24. The Knight-errant's error was to save the dragon from the maiden.
- 25. A sinecure in the bureaucracy was the sine qua non of his dreams.

The Word Within the Word • Notes #16

- 1. A Micropoem: An anthology of modern poetry is a collection of poetry from many different poets, carefully selected in order to present poems of high quality. An anthology is a good way to become familiar with many famous poems, and with differences in style among poets. Even the word anthology is poetic. In fact, anthology contains a quiet but beautiful metaphor, for the literal meaning of anthology is to make a study/collection of (logy) the flowers (antho). An anthologist collects the flowers of literature.
- 2. When we say that there has been a confluence of ideas of a confluence of trends, we are taking an image from geography, from the lowlands where the rivers flow (flu) together (con).
- 3. Imagine taking the trouble to put something together from many different places, only to find that you didn't put it together well enough, and now the pieces are dropping off and falling, one at a time. This is the image we relish when we say that an argument is **coherent** or **incoherent**. If an argument is coherent, it sticks (here) together (co). The stuff that makes an argument stick together is a mixture of consistency and logic.
- 4. The usual order of events is that we have to take time in order to do things. But sometimes it is the opposite. Sometimes we try to stall or delay, and so we have to think of things to do in order to make time. To do so is to temporize, literally to make (ize) time (tempor). We perform arbitrary actions in order to generate time.
- 5. Jurisdiction is a big, stately word. It means the legal power to hear disputes and to interpret the law. The literal meaning of the word is exactly that; the person with jurisdiction can say (dict) what the law (jur) requires.
- 6. Even careful speakers sometimes confuse two similar words, abjure and adjure. To abjure a belief is to disclaim it, to renounce it. To adjure someone is to earnestly command or request them. How can these two words, like two insects that strikingly resemble each other through protective coloration, be told apart? The answer is in the prefix. Abjure, to renounce, means swear (jur) away (ab). Adjure, to entreat, means swear (jur) to (ad). I abjure my former political beliefs, but I adjure you not to forsake yours.
- 7. What does calisthenics mean? The art (ics) of becoming beautiful (calli) and strong (sthen)!
- 8. Under the ocean there are beautiful flowery plant-like organisms such as sea corals and sea anemones. But are they plants? The answer is in their name; they are the anthozoans, the flower (antho) animals (zo).
- 9. Some words provide almost mystical insight. Do we influence each other? Then we flow (flu) into (in) each other as we exchange ideas, thoughts, emotions, and reactions. We allow our selves to flow into each other.
- 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:

anglicism: anglicismo

atheist: ateísta

calligraphy: caligrafía

microcephalic: microcefálico extraterrestrial: extraterrestria

holocaust: holocausto coherence: coherencia anthology: antología somniferous: somnífero