

## The Word Within the Word • List #19

<b>ven</b>	<i>(come)</i>	convene, convention, avenue, vent, circumvent, advent, prevent	<i>Latin</i>
<b>ichthy</b>	<i>(fish)</i>	ichthyosaur, ichthyologist, ichthyoid, ichthyosis	<i>Greek</i>
<b>pulse</b>	<i>(drive)</i>	impulse, repulse, pulsate, impulsive	<i>Latin</i>
<b>calor</b>	<i>(heat)</i>	calorie, calorimeter, calorific, caloric	<i>Latin</i>
<b>sol</b>	<i>(sun)</i>	solar, solstice, solarium, solarize, solar plexus	<i>Latin</i>
<b>strat</b>	<i>(layer)</i>	stratigraphy, stratosphere, cirrostratus, strata, substratum, stratified	<i>Latin</i>
<b>nuc</b>	<i>(center)</i>	nucleus, nucleate, nuclide, nucleon, nucleotide, nucleoplasm	<i>Latin</i>
<b>sat</b>	<i>(enough)</i>	satisfy, dissatisfaction, saturate, insatiable, sate	<i>Latin</i>
<b>protero</b>	<i>(early)</i>	Proterozoic, proterandrous, proteranthous	<i>Greek</i>
<b>mont</b>	<i>(mountain)</i>	piedmont, Montana, Montevideo, montane, cismontane	<i>Latin</i>
<b>kilo</b>	<i>(thousand)</i>	kilometer, kiloton, kilowatt, kilogram	<i>Greek</i>
<b>myria</b>	<i>(many)</i>	myriad, myriapod, myriameter, myriarch, myriophyllum	<i>Greek</i>
<b>tachy</b>	<i>(quick)</i>	tachometer, tachycardia, tachylyte, tachygraphy	<i>Greek</i>
<b>fiss</b>	<i>(split)</i>	fissile, fission, fissipalmate, fissiped, fissure	<i>Latin</i>
<b>cumu</b>	<i>(heaped)</i>	accumulate, cumulus, cumulonimbus, cumulative	<i>Latin</i>
<b>meteor</b>	<i>(high)</i>	meteorite, meteoric, meteorograph, meteorology	<i>Greek</i>
<b>hibern</b>	<i>(winter)</i>	hibernate, hibernal, hibernaculum	<i>Latin</i>
<b>di</b>	<i>(two)</i>	diverge, dicotyledon, diencephalon, diffusion, differ, dilemma, catadioptric	<i>Latin</i>
<b>bath</b>	<i>(deep)</i>	bathymetry, bathyscaph, bathysphere, bathos, batholith	<i>Greek</i>
<b>cirr</b>	<i>(hair)</i>	cirrus, cirrostratus, cirriped, cirrocumulus	<i>Greek</i>
<b>grav</b>	<i>(heavy)</i>	gravity, gravid, gravimetric, gravamen, aggravate	<i>Latin</i>
<b>solv</b>	<i>(loosen)</i>	resolve, dissolve, absolve, solvent, insolvency	<i>Latin</i>
<b>ophthal</b>	<i>(eye)</i>	ophthalmologist, ophthalmoscope, ophthalmic, exophthalmic	<i>Greek</i>
<b>oma</b>	<i>(tumor)</i>	melanoma, carcinoma, hematoma, glaucoma	<i>Greek</i>
<b>rub</b>	<i>(red)</i>	rubric, rubious, rubicund, ruby, rubescent, rubella	<i>Latin</i>

# spec

## look • see

The Latin stem *spec*, which we define as meaning *look* or *see*, is sometimes seen as *spic* or *spect*. Since *spec* refers to vision, it appears in some of the most beautiful and descriptive words in our language. Here are some of the interesting words that contain *spec* in its various shades of meaning:

<b>specimen:</b>	an example. Unfortunately, the specimen died before it could be studied.
<b>specific:</b>	definite. They searched for the specific cause of the symptom.
<b>special:</b>	unique. The special theory of relativity was really something to see.
<b>spectacle:</b>	a remarkable sight. The spectacle in the Colosseum exhilarated the Romans.
<b>specter:</b>	an apparition. The sound of breathing rose as the glowing specter approached.
<b>species:</b>	a distinct variety. Undiscovered species are becoming extinct in the Amazon.
<b>speculate:</b>	to conjecture. She refused to speculate about the Egyptians' possible reply.
<b>spectrum:</b>	a continuous range. A spectrum of opinions characterized the diverse group.
<b>respect:</b>	to hold in esteem. She looked at her friend with a new respect.
<b>introspection:</b>	self-analysis. Macbeth lapsed into a chronic, melancholy introspection.
<b>inspect:</b>	examine critically. A probing inspection left little doubt about the error.
<b>retrospective:</b>	backward looking. The old songs put her in a pensive and retrospective mood.
<b>suspect:</b>	to believe guilty. Without specific reason, he began to suspect Raskolnikov.
<b>transpicious:</b>	easily understood. With transpicious logic, Aristotle explained the cause.
<b>specious:</b>	false. The rationalizations for slavery were disingenuously specious.
<b>perspective:</b>	objective vision. The perspicuous essay showed she had not lost perspective.
<b>prospect:</b>	an outlook. The prospect from Yeats's tower was inspiring.
<b>aspect:</b>	mien. "By your aspect, you appear to think so," Hamlet added.
<b>spectator:</b>	observer. The burning dirigible rained fire on the terrified spectators.
<b>perspicuous:</b>	clear. The essay was brilliantly perspicuous.
<b>perspicacious:</b>	clear. Her perspicuous essay was a manifestation of her perspicacious mind.

1. We convened at the Hilton on Third Avenue.
2. The ichthyologist removed the petrified ichthyosaur bones.
3. The impulsive commander repulsed the enemy.
4. The calorimeter measured the heat of the calorific reaction.
5. Heliophiles catch few solar rays at the winter solstice.
6. The bride and groom were not from the same social stratum.
7. There were nucleotides in the chromosomes of the cell nucleus.
8. He tried to sate his insatiable appetite for pizza.
9. Male proterandrous insects appear earlier in the season than females.
10. The montane vistas of Montevideo are as beautiful as those in Montana.
11. A kilometer, one thousand meters, is 0.62137 miles in length.
12. Myriad explanations exist of unidentified flying objects.
13. At the first sign of tachycardia, he was rushed to the hospital.
14. Is nuclear fission the opposite of nuclear fusion?
15. The cumulus clouds accumulated as the sun baked the sea.
16. The meteorologist reported that the meteorite did no damage.
17. The hibernal winds did not reach the hibernating bear.
18. The dilemma was whether to study the dicotyledon or the diencephalon.
19. The bathymetry of the Pacific was easily studied with the bathyscaph.
20. Barnacles and other cirripeds covered the marina's pilings.
21. The gravamen of the charges is that he left his post under fire.
22. The solvent did not dissolve the old paint on the brush.
23. The ophthalmologist treats the diseases of the eye.
24. The exposure to carcinogens produced carcinomas in the workers.
25. The red rubric at the beginning of the text was beautiful.

1. A Micropoem: **Ichthyosis** is a congenital disease which causes the sufferer's skin to harden and flake off. The name of the disease is unpleasantly descriptive because it means that the skin is in a fishy (ichthy) condition (osis).
2. The **Proterozoic Age** (a term which does not enjoy the vogue it once did among geologists) is a geologic time period which occurred between the Paleozoic and Archeozoic periods. It lasted from about 1,400,000,000 years ago until 620,000,000 years ago and is named after the fossils found in its sedimentary rock deposits. Only the simplest, most primitive fossils, including some invertebrates and marine algae, can be found in these rocks. The Proterozoic Era was the time of early (protero) animals (zo).
3. What is the difference between nuclear **fission** and nuclear **fusion**? It is simple to remember. Nuclear fission is the splitting (fiss) of the nucleus of a heavy atom like uranium, whereas fusion is the joining (fus: pour together) of the nuclei of lighter atoms like deuterium into heavier atoms like helium. Fission is a splitting; fusion is a pouring together.
4. In some books there is a title or heading that is set off from the rest of the text by being printed in red (rub). It is called a **rubric** after the traditional color used, even though today the rubric is sometimes printed in a color other than red.
5. In ancient Greece a **myriarch** was a commander (arch) of ten thousand (myria) soldiers. We still retain the stem myria, but we have relaxed the concept to mean not *ten thousand* but *very many*. The **Myriapoda** are the little critters with gobs of legs (pod), such as the centipedes and the millipedes.
6. Have you ever been **absolved** of guilt? That means that the guilt that was attached to you in other people's minds has been loosened (solv) and removed away (ab).
7. Have you ever encountered the two terms **pathos** and **bathos**? Pathos is the ability of a creative work to arouse a feeling (path) of sympathy or pity. If this emotion is overemphasized, too deep, inappropriately deep (bath), we then call it **bathos**. Bathos is a too-deep pathos, an unrespectable sentimentality in a creative work.
8. **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:

prevent : prevenir  
impulse : impulso  
nucleus : núcleo  
montane : montañoso  
accumulate : acumular  
hibernate : hibernar  
aggravate : agravar  
glaucoma : glaucoma