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## The Word Within the Word • List #22

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<b>mollify</b>	<i>(make soft)</i>	It can be difficult to mollify someone's anger.
<b>ichthyologist</b>	<i>(fish scientist)</i>	Up splashed a water-logged ichthyologist.
<b>polyglot</b>	<i>(multi-linguist)</i>	She is an brilliant polyglot who speaks seven languages.
<b>diaphanous</b>	<i>(semitransparent)</i>	Look through the diaphanous draperies.
<b>somniferous</b>	<i>(bringing sleep)</i>	The somniferous speech put him to sleep.
<b>sinecure</b>	<i>(an easy lucrative job)</i>	He has a comfortable sinecure in his uncle's firm.
<b>soliloquy</b>	<i>(speech to oneself)</i>	Hamlet's famous soliloquy is the question.
<b>adherent</b>	<i>(supporter)</i>	The adherents of a militaristic foreign policy want war.
<b>abjure</b>	<i>(renounce)</i>	To abjure one's former beliefs is stressful.
<b>caustic</b>	<i>(burning)</i>	The caustic comments about her clothes hurt her.
<b>confluence</b>	<i>(a flowing together)</i>	The idea was formed by a confluence of other ideas.
<b>depose</b>	<i>(topple from power)</i>	He was deposed without violence.
<b>egomania</b>	<i>(self-obsession)</i>	The offensive egomaniac praised himself.
<b>egregious</b>	<i>(blatant)</i>	It was egregious act of vandalism.
<b>analgesic</b>	<i>(painkiller)</i>	Take an extra-strength analgesic for the headache.
<b>chiromancy</b>	<i>(palm reading)</i>	Try to divine the future through chiromancy.
<b>oligarchy</b>	<i>(government by a few)</i>	The corrupt Greek oligarchy kept control.
<b>intractable</b>	<i>(stubborn)</i>	The bigot's intractable opinions were unchangeable.
<b>intransigent</b>	<i>(not compromising)</i>	The intransigent true believers wouldn't budge.
<b>perfidious</b>	<i>(treacherous)</i>	His perfidious cowardice made him infamous.
<b>perspicuous</b>	<i>(brilliantly clear)</i>	Her perspicuous essay won her the scholarship.
<b>ingenuous</b>	<i>(innocent and naive)</i>	The ingenuous—but not ingenious—girl believed it.
<b>circumlocution</b>	<i>(talking in circles)</i>	He used a circumlocution to avoid answering the question.
<b>gregarious</b>	<i>(sociable)</i>	He has a friendly, gregarious personality
<b>discursive</b>	<i>(rambling)</i>	It was an illogical, discursive speech.

# equi

## equal • equally

The Latin stem **equi** is sometimes as seen as **equa**. It refers to equality. Beware of confusing **equi** with **equus**, which refers to horses in words such as *equine*, *equestrian* and *equites*. Here is a small selection of the interesting words that contain **equi**:

<b>equity:</b>	fairness. Equity dictates that benefits for some be extended to all.
<b>equilibrate:</b>	to balance. She equilibrated the two currents to make a smooth waveform.
<b>equable:</b>	uniform. The yearly temperatures were equable, and always pleasant.
<b>equilibrium:</b>	balance. The two forces had reached a steady state of equilibrium.
<b>equidistant:</b>	mid-way. We met in a small town that is equidistant from our two cities.
<b>equivocate:</b>	to hedge. He equivocated in order to avoid answering the question.
<b>equivoque:</b>	a double meaning. Her banter was filled with equivoques such as puns.
<b>equiponderant:</b>	of the same weight. The scale showed a balance of equiponderant masses.
<b>equinox:</b>	when sun crosses equator. At the equinox, day and night are of equal length.
<b>equipotential:</b>	of equal power. As dictator, he dreaded all equipotential political systems.
<b>egalitarian:</b>	for equal rights. The rebellious banner was raised for egalitarian ideals.
<b>equalize:</b>	to make equal. Gradually, the incomes on the island began to equalize.
<b>equanimity:</b>	composure. Despite the chaos and panic, she never lost her equanimity.
<b>disequilibrium:</b>	economic imbalance. Skyrocketing interest rates created real disequilibrium.
<b>equiangular:</b>	of equal angles. Her art consisted of designs in equiangular polygons.
<b>equivalence:</b>	of equal amount. There was a rough equivalence between their estimates.
<b>equilibrist:</b>	tightrope walker. Sometimes the theologian felt like a logical equilibrist.
<b>equate:</b>	to regard as equal. It would be obtuse to equate your achievement with hers.
<b>equilateral:</b>	having equal sides. The tiles were shaped as equilateral triangles.
<b>equator:</b>	sphere's mid-circle. The equator is equidistant from the poles.
<b>equipoise:</b>	state of balance. Three branches of government operate in a curious equipoise.

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## The Word Within the Word • Notes #22

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1. Why do we call an easy, lucrative job a **sinecure**? Because it is a job without (sine) care (cur). There is not much to worry about in a sinecure; you just go and pick up your check.
2. **Depose** means topple from power. The image is one of a person in a high position who is forcefully put (pos) down (de) where he (we hope) belongs.
3. The **adherents** of a policy stick (here) to (ad) it. They are the stickers-on.
4. Why does **abjure** mean renounce? Well, sometimes we have to change our minds and renounce something we have previously sworn to support. We might previously have sworn it to us, but now we have to swear (jur) it away (ab).
5. An **egregious** act is a publicly outrageous one, done out (ex) before the group (greg).
6. The **intractable** person is stubborn and can not (in) be pulled (tract) from his position. He is notpullable.
7. **Perspicuous** means brilliantly clear because what is clear can be seen (spec) through (per). A perspicuous essay is full of seethroughness.
8. A Micropoem: A **discursive** speech is rambling because it runs (curs) away (dis) from its topic. It is a runaway speech.
9. What is innocent or naive about the **ingenuous** person? If someone is ingenuous, that person has yet to be changed by the cruel world. The sincere and trusting ingenuous soul is still in (in) original (gen) condition.
10. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**  
diaphanous - dye AFF anous  
egregious - ee GREE juss  
perspicuous - per SPICK yoo uss  
circumlocution - circum lo KYOO shun  
sinecure - SIN uh cure  
sommiferous - som NIF erous  
ichthyologist - ick thee OL o jist  
soliloquy - so LILL o kwuy  
analgesic - an al JEE zik
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:

polyglot : políglota  
diaphanous : diáfano  
soliloquy : soliloquio  
egomania : egomanía  
analgesic : analgésico  
oligarchy : oligarquía

intransigent : intransigente  
ingenuous : ingenuo  
sommiferous : somnífero

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## The Word Within the Word • Classic Words #22

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In each case below, one of the choices was really the word used by the author in the sentence provided. All of the choices can be found in the example words on the first page of this lesson. Your challenge is to decide which word the author used. This is not a test; it is more like a game, because more than one word choice may work perfectly well. See if you can use your sensitivity and intuition to guess correctly which word the author used. You may need a dictionary.

1. From Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*

The little light fades the immense and \_\_\_\_\_ shadows.

- a. caustic
- b. diaphanous**
- c. intransigent
- d. gregarious

2. From John Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*

He could still work himself into a rage at what he regarded as Jefferson's \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. adherence
- b. oligarchy
- c. circumlocution
- d. perfidy**

3. From Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*

The spirit which served her was growing \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. caustic
- b. somniferous
- c. intractable**
- d. perspicuous

4. From William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*

He could see with a fatal \_\_\_\_\_ that there was no place there for him.

- a. perspicuity**
- b. confluence
- c. egomania
- d. chiromancy

5. From Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

He went on with \_\_\_\_\_ enthusiasm.

- a. egregious
- b. ingenuous**
- c. gregarious
- d. discursive

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The Word Within the Word • Mystery Spelling #22

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<b>mollify</b>	moll i fy
<b>ichthyologist</b>	ichthy o log ist
<b>polyglot</b>	poly glot
<b>diaphanous</b>	dia phan ous
<b>somniferous</b>	somn i fer ous
<b>sinecure</b>	sine cur e
<b>soliloquy</b>	sol i loqu y
<b>adherent</b>	ad here nt
<b>abjure</b>	ab jur e
<b>caustic</b>	caust ic
<b>confluence</b>	con flu ence
<b>depose</b>	de pos e
<b>egomania</b>	ego mania
<b>egregious</b>	e greg i ous
<b>analgesic</b>	an alg es ic
<b>chiromancy</b>	chiro mancy
<b>oligarchy</b>	olig archy
<b>intractable</b>	in tract able
<b>intransigence</b>	in trans igence
<b>perfidious</b>	per fid i ous
<b>perspicuous</b>	per spic u ous
<b>ingenuous</b>	in gen u ous
<b>circumlocution</b>	circum locu tion
<b>gregarious</b>	greg ari ous
<b>discursive</b>	dis curs ive

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## The Word Within the Word • Ideas #22

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### SYNTHESIS:

Can you think of some reasons why it might be advantageous to be governed by an **oligarchy**? What would be the disadvantages?

### DIVERGENCE:

American culture is a result of a **confluence** of many other cultures. How many other examples of confluence can you think of?

### ANALYSIS:

Why does **intractable** mean stubborn?

### EVALUATION:

Hiram provided his uncle with a **sinecure** in a family-owned company. His uncle is untrained and unmotivated. Do you regard Hiram's action as a kindness or as a wrong?

### INTUITION:

An **ingenuous** young fellow arrives in the city and is soon parted from his money by quick-talking sharks who take advantage of his lack of experience. How do they cheat him?

### EMOTION:

What would be the frequent emotions of the friends of a **gregarious** person?

### AESTHETICS:

You are given 8,000 yards of **diaphanous** blue fabric and told to make a work of art on a mountainside. What will you do?