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**The Word Within the Word • List #26**

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<b>delineate</b>	<i>(to outline)</i>	He will quickly delineate the options.
<b>emollient</b>	<i>(softener)</i>	A bottle of creamy emollient for the skin.
<b>retrograde</b>	<i>(backward)</i>	The planet seems to move in a retrograde motion.
<b>melancholy</b>	<i>(dark sadness)</i>	Some people feel a black melancholy on rainy days.
<b>intracranial</b>	<i>(within the skull)</i>	Intracranial surgery will not exorcise her demons.
<b>cardiovascular</b>	<i>(of the heart and vessels)</i>	You need cardiovascular exercise.
<b>epiphany</b>	<i>(revelation)</i>	The epiphany was a flash, a sudden appearance of insight.
<b>histology</b>	<i>(study of living tissues)</i>	The classic histology textbook was out of print.
<b>perihelion</b>	<i>(orbital point nearest the sun)</i>	The planet reached perihelion.
<b>inherent</b>	<i>(built-in)</i>	Americans possess an inherent right to free speech.
<b>plutocracy</b>	<i>(government of the wealthy)</i>	Is the nation controlled by plutocrats?
<b>sine qua non</b>	<i>(essential element)</i>	Money was the sine qua non for acceptance.
<b>corpulent</b>	<i>(full-bodied)</i>	His corpulence was caused by his gluttony.
<b>dichotomy</b>	<i>(two-part division)</i>	The right/wrong dichotomy seemed simplistic.
<b>pathological</b>	<i>(diseased)</i>	The fascist dictator was a pathological liar.
<b>cryptic</b>	<i>(having hidden meaning)</i>	We found a cryptic inscription in the stone.
<b>isosceles</b>	<i>(having two equal sides)</i>	He drew an isosceles trapezoid on the board.
<b>pathogen</b>	<i>(disease-causer)</i>	The team's careful search did not locate the pathogen.
<b>vociferous</b>	<i>(loudly-voiced)</i>	His vociferous protests could be heard for blocks.
<b>rectify</b>	<i>(correct)</i>	Please take steps to rectify the situation and make it right.
<b>sanctimonious</b>	<i>(affectedly holy)</i>	His sanctimonious lectures were hypocritical.
<b>tortuous</b>	<i>(twisting)</i>	The tortuous mountain highway wound steeply up.
<b>rectilinear</b>	<i>(right-angled)</i>	Do you like the building's rectilinear architecture?
<b>metamorphosis</b>	<i>(change of shape)</i>	The insect's metamorphosis was miraculous.
<b>petroglyph</b>	<i>(rock carving)</i>	The prehistoric petroglyph was high on the cave wall.

# *poly*

many • much • excessive

The Greek stem *poly* is one of the most useful prefixes in the English language; it lets us easily describe phenomena that are multiple. Although *poly* usually means *many*, it also can mean *much*, *more than usual*, *excessive*, or *in many parts*. Here is a small selection of the interesting words that contain *poly*:

<b>polymath:</b>	one of great learning. The brilliant polymath was expert in numerous fields.
<b>polyandry:</b>	having multiple husbands. Some of the tribes had polyandrous traditions.
<b>polyphony:</b>	harmonizing melodies. Bach is famous for his intricate polyphony.
<b>polyglot:</b>	speaking many languages. She was a fluent, five-language polyglot.
<b>polyphagia:</b>	excessive desire for food. His polyphagia was caused by subconscious fear.
<b>polygraph:</b>	lie detector. The polygraph device measured pulse rate, blood pressure, etc.
<b>polygon:</b>	many-sided figure. By <i>polygon</i> he meant having more than three sides.
<b>polymorphism:</b>	having different forms. The castes of polymorphic insects look very different.
<b>polytheism:</b>	worship of many gods. The pagan polytheism endured for many centuries.
<b>polysome:</b>	group of ribosomes. Protein synthesis occurred in the polysomes.
<b>polychrome:</b>	of many colors. The abstract paintings were all bright polychromes.
<b>polyrhythm:</b>	simultaneous rhythms. Polyrhythmic beats echoed through the valley.
<b>polysemy:</b>	having many meanings. The debate degenerated into semantic polysemy.
<b>polysyllabic:</b>	of many syllables. His polysyllabic terms revealed a sesquipedalian egotism.
<b>polygamy:</b>	marriage to many. Variations of polygamy are traditional in different cultures.
<b>polygyny:</b>	multiple wives. The sultan's harem was a polygynous institution.
<b>polyphyletic:</b>	of multiple ancestry. The curious species had a polyphyletic origin.
<b>polyptych:</b>	art panels. The five-panel polyptych made a beautiful altarpiece.
<b>polyp:</b>	a tentacled coelenterate. Stinging cells covered the polyp's many tentacles.
<b>polynomial:</b>	expression of multiple terms. We remember Pythagoras for his polynomials.
<b>polysyndeton:</b>	repetition of conjunctions. His tirade sounded like a study in polysyndeton.

1. **Peri** and **apo** are often used to make opposites: perihelion and aphelion, perigee and apogee. Perihelion is the orbital point nearest (peri) the sun (helio), where as aphelion is the orbital point away (apo) from the sun (helio). Perigee is the orbital point nearest (peri) the earth (geo).
2. A **pathogen** is a disease-causer because it originates (gen) disease (patho).
3. In ancient Greece, people referred to the appearance or manifestation of a god as an **epipháneia**. Today we might not have Apollo or Dionysus suddenly appear to us, but we might have a revelation, a revealing, a flash, a sudden **appearance** (phan) not of a god but of insight. This experience is an **epiphany**.
4. We **rectify** something wrong when we correct it, when we make (fy) it right (rect).
5. A Micropoem: In a **dichotomy**, things are cut (tomy) in two (dicho). Some see a dichotomized world in which everything is either/or: right or wrong, good or bad, communist or noncommunist, art or not art, american or un-American, and so forth. Others regard some dichotomies as oversimplifications.
6. The **sine qua non** is the thing *without-which-not*. If you have the sine qua non, then ok, but if not, then forget it. It is the essential element which must be present.
7. The **sanctimonious** person is full of (ous) holiness (sanct), but too full. Sanctimoniousness is arrogantly and pretentiously taking on airs of superior holiness which one does not merit.
8. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**  
melancholy - MELL an koll ee  
corpulent - KORP yoo lent  
isosceles - eye SOSS uh leez  
sine qua non - SIN eh kwa nahn  
plutocracy - ploo TOCK ra see  
perihelion - per ih HEE lee un  
intracranial - intra KRAY nee al  
emollient - ee MOLL yent  
sanctimonious - sank tih MO nee us
9. **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:

delineate : delinear  
retrograde : retrograda  
melancholy : melancolía  
intracranial : intracranial  
cardiovascular : cardiovascular  
epiphany : epifanía

inherent : inherente  
corpulent : corpulento  
dichotomy : dicotomía  
rectify : rectificar  
petroglyph : petroglífico  
metamorphosis : metamorfosis

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## The Word Within the Word • Classic Words #26

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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 Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights***

He entered, \_\_\_\_\_ oaths dreadful to hear.

- a. delineating
- b. rectifying
- c. **vociferating**
- d. dichotomizing

2. **From Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe***

Our history must needs \_\_\_\_\_ for the space of a few pages.

- a. **retrograde**
- b. metamorphosize
- c. delineate
- d. rectify

3. **From Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man***

Their heavy steel plates [clicked] remote, \_\_\_\_\_ messages in the brief silence of the train's stop.

- a. **cryptic**
- b. corpulent
- c. tortuous
- d. inherent

4. **From Joseph Heller's *Catch-22***

Nurse Cramer...sizzled with \_\_\_\_\_ anger like a damp firecracker.

- a. metamorphic
- b. **vociferous**
- c. rectilinear
- d. sanctimonious

5. **From Jane Austen's *Emma***

It was all general approbation and smoothness; nothing \_\_\_\_\_ or distinguished.

- a. inherent
- b. melancholy
- c. **delineated**
- d. corpulent

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The Word Within the Word • Mystery Spelling #26

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delineate	de lin e ate
emollient	e moll ient
retrograde	retro grade
melancholy	mela n choly
intracranial	intra crania l
cardiovascular	cardio vas cul ar
epiphany	epi phan y
histology	histo logy
perihelion	peri helio n
inherent	in here nt
plutocracy	pluto cracy
sine qua non	sine qua non
corpulent	corp u lent
dichotomy	dicho tomy
pathological	patho log ic al
cryptic	crypt ic
isosceles	iso sce les
pathogen	patho gen
vociferous	voc i fer ous
rectify	rect i fy
sanctimonious	sanct i moni ous
tortuous	tort u ous
rectilinear	rect i line ar
metamorphosis	meta morph osis
petroglyph	petro glyph

**SYNTHESIS:**

What statement can you make that is true of petroglyphs, plutocracies, and emollients? Obviously, making a single true statement of three such different things might cause you to consider some very ingenious categories.

**DIVERGENCE:**

Imagine every physical process you can think of that would occur on or near the head of a comet as it reaches perihelion. Would you rather see the comet close-up at perihelion or at aphelion?

**ANALYSIS:**

Explain the construction of the words **dichotomy**, **rectilinear**, **metamorphosis**, and **pathogen**.

**EVALUATION:**

Is there always a clear dichotomy between right and wrong? Are there any behaviors which are both? Are there any behaviors which are neither?

**INTUITION:**

An undiscovered pathogen is causing sickness in your community. What do you fear the pathogen is?

**EMOTION:**

What emotions do you associate with corpulence? Are these emotions appropriate?

**AESTHETICS:**

Do you think cities would be improved if corporations allowed local artists to carve petroglyphs on the stone sides of the buildings?