

---

## The Word Within the Word • List #27

---

<b>chronic</b>	<i>(lasting)</i>	His chronic illness dragged on for years.
<b>hyperbole</b>	<i>(overstatement)</i>	His colorful hyperbole livened his conversation.
<b>sonorous</b>	<i>(full-sounding)</i>	Dr. King's sonorous voice echoed over the crowd.
<b>germane</b>	<i>(related)</i>	Her germane comments really hit the mark.
<b>convivial</b>	<i>(jovial, festive)</i>	His convivial friends loved to celebrate.
<b>cognomen</b>	<i>(nickname)</i>	His cognomen is "Sterno."
<b>anarchist</b>	<i>(one against government)</i>	The anarchist passed out leaflets to passersby.
<b>animadversion</b>	<i>(criticism)</i>	Your animadversions on his behavior are superfluous.
<b>pusillanimous</b>	<i>(small-minded)</i>	The deliberate snub was a low, pusillanimous act.
<b>subterfuge</b>	<i>(evasive dodge)</i>	The mayor ducked a question with a clever subterfuge.
<b>saturnine</b>	<i>(gloomy and remote)</i>	Her saturnine personality won her few friends.
<b>luminary</b>	<i>(enlightening person)</i>	We met the amiable luminary, Carl Sagan.
<b>exorbitant</b>	<i>(unreasonable)</i>	Their exorbitant prices are in an orbit of their own.
<b>expatriate</b>	<i>(banish)</i>	They were forcefully expatriated from the fatherland.
<b>filigree</b>	<i>(lacy design)</i>	The delicate filigree around the diamond was beautiful.
<b>eulogy</b>	<i>(words of praise)</i>	The reverend delivered a moving eulogy at the funeral.
<b>sedentary</b>	<i>(sitting)</i>	Flagpole sitting is a highly sedentary occupation.
<b>euphoria</b>	<i>(joy)</i>	Their love brought them a blissful euphoria.
<b>bonhomie</b>	<i>(good-naturedness)</i>	He was a popular fellow of appealing bonhomie.
<b>bona fide</b>	<i>(good faith)</i>	The company will make a bona fide offer.
<b>bon vivant</b>	<i>(indulger in luxury)</i>	The wealthy bon vivant lived the good life.
<b>mutable</b>	<i>(changeable)</i>	The mutable laws of high fashion can't be predicted.
<b>impute</b>	<i>(attribute discredit)</i>	It is unnecessary to impute evil motives to opponents.
<b>status quo</b>	<i>(the present state)</i>	It can be dangerous to disrupt the status quo.
<b>paradigm</b>	<i>(model)</i>	The incident offers an instructive paradigm for future guidance.

# pre

## before • in front • superior

The Latin stem **pre** is one of the most commonly found prefixes in the English language, designating things that are first in a sequence, either of time, position, or quality. **Pre** usually means *before*, but we also use it to mean *earlier*, *anterior to*, *in front of*, *surpassing*, or *superior*. Consult a good college dictionary to see the many pages of words which begin with this important prefix. Here is a small selection of the interesting words that contain **pre**:

- preamble:** an introduction. We studied the preamble to *The Constitution*.
- precipice:** a sheer cliff. Carton snatched his alter ego from the precipice of disaster.
- precise:** accurate. Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg was precise in her wording.
- predilection:** a partiality. His early life had given him a predilection for good wine.
- predominant:** superior. The predominant murder motive in the case was anger.
- prehistory:** before recorded history. Archeology pieces together the truth of prehistory.
- prehensile:** grasping. Humans have prehensile hands with opposable thumbs.
- prenuptial:** before marriage. The prenuptial agreement assigned all of their assets.
- preliterate:** without writing. Oral history is common in preliterate cultures.
- prevaricate:** to equivocate. Aunt Polly easily detected his inept prevarications.
- prestige:** impressive reputation. The Nobel Prize carries with it a certain prestige.
- prevail:** to triumph over. Faulkner felt man would not merely endure; he would prevail.
- prescind:** to detach or isolate. After Finney's accident, Gene prescinded his mind.
- prelude:** a preliminary part. He recognized the fugue's prelude immediately.
- prefigure:** to foreshadow. The war now seems prefigured in the prior nationalism.
- premeditate:** to plan. It was a premeditated crime; it involved prepense.
- predestine:** to foreordain. Oedipus felt that his tragic fate was predestined for him.
- précis:** a concise summary. She worked all night on a précis of the defendant's case.
- preempt:** replace. A soapy sitcom was preempted by the first game of the World Series.
- precipitous:** rash or impetuous. Iago manipulated Othello's precipitous emotionalism.
- presage:** an omen. A lion whelped in the street as a presage of the assassination.

1. **Convivial** people are jovial because they are like Jove—they are festive and love to celebrate with their friends. It is times of life (viv) together (con) which they relish.
2. A Micropoem: A trick used to evade a question, dodge a question, or duck a question is known as a **subterfuge**. We use the trick to duck: to flee (fug) under (sub) the question.
3. Why do we call a gloomy and remote personality **saturnine**? Because they are Saturn-like; Saturn is distant from us and far from the warmth of the sun.
4. A **bon vivant** is an indulger in luxury, an enjoyer, a person who luxuriates in the good (bon) life (viv).
5. A **paradigm** (pronounced para-dime) is a mental model, a pattern. It is an example which one may imitate. The idea lies in para—beside. When one has two things side by side, both the copy and the model to copy, then it is easier to follow the pattern. We might say that someone's quick response in time of crisis is a paradigm for future imitation, and we then pattern our behavior after that model. Physical models, such as airplane models or boat models, are not referred to as paradigms.
6. The **status quo** is the *state which* exists at present.
7. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**  
chronic - KRON ik  
pusillanimous - PYOO sill ann ih muss  
bonhomie - bohn oh MEE  
bona fide - bo nah FIDE ee  
mutable - MYOO tah bul  
subterfuge - SUB turr fyooj  
bon vivant - bohn vee VAHN  
paradigm - PAR ah dime  
germane - jur MAIN
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:

chronic : crónico  
hyperbole : hipérbole  
anarchist : anarquista  
luminary : luminaria  
exorbitant : exorbitante  
expatriate : expatriar

eulogy : eulogía  
sedentary : sedentario  
euphoria : euforia  
bona fide : bona fide  
status quo : status quo  
paradigm : paradigma

---

## The Word Within the Word • Classic Words #27

---

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 Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Crane was not inapplicable to this person.

- a. subterfuge
- b. euphoria
- c. status quo
- d. cognomen

2. From Edith Wharton's *Ethan Frome*

He had had no time for \_\_\_\_\_ loiterings in the village.

- a. convivial
- b. exorbitant
- c. mutable
- d. saturnine

3. From Jane Austen's *Emma*

It was charity to \_\_\_\_\_ some of her unbecoming indifference to the languor of ill-health.

- a. eulogize
- b. expatriate
- c. impute
- d. animadvert

4. From James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

Lynch smote himself \_\_\_\_\_ on the chest.

- a. convivially
- b. germanely
- c. chronically
- d. sonorously

5. From Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*

Most seamen lead, if one may so express it, a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

- a. sedentary
- b. saturnine
- c. pusillanimous
- d. mutable

---

The Word Within the Word • Mystery Spelling #27

---

<b>chronic</b>	chron ic
<b>hyperbole</b>	hyper bole
<b>sonorous</b>	son or ous
<b>germane</b>	germ ane
<b>convivial</b>	con viv ial
<b>cognomen</b>	cog nom en
<b>anarchist</b>	an arch ist
<b>animadversion</b>	anim ad vers ion
<b>pusillanimous</b>	pusill anim ous
<b>subterfuge</b>	sub ter fug e
<b>saturnine</b>	saturn ine
<b>luminary</b>	lum in ary
<b>exorbitant</b>	ex orb it ant
<b>expatriate</b>	ex patri ate
<b>filigree</b>	fil i gree
<b>eulogy</b>	eu logy
<b>sedentary</b>	sed ent ary
<b>euphoria</b>	eu phor ia
<b>bonhomie</b>	bon hom ie
<b>bona fide</b>	bon a fid e
<b>mutable</b>	muta ble
<b>impute</b>	im put e'
<b>status quo</b>	sta tus quo
<b>paradigm</b>	para digm

**SYNTHESIS:**

Which words in List #27 would you most like to have applied to you? Which words would you least like to have applied to you?

**DIVERGENCE:**

Who are the most famous **luminaries** in American history? Think of as many as you can.

**ANALYSIS:**

Analyze the words **cognomen**, **sonorous**, **euphoria**, **eulogy**, **anarchist**, and **expatriate**.

**EVALUATION:**

Should **pusillanimous** acts be punished, ignored, or discussed?

**INTUITION:**

Everyone knows that the laws of fashion design are **mutable**. How do you imagine the people will dress in 2050 A.D.?

**EMOTION:**

**Euphoria** is an emotion. Give some examples of events which would leave you euphoric.

**AESTHETICS:**

Which would be more difficult to capture in painting or sculpture, a person who is **convivial** or a person who is **saturnine**?