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## The Word Within the Word • List #30

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<b>induction</b>	<i>(factual reasoning)</i>	Science uses a process of induction.
<b>hagiocracy</b>	<i>(government of saints)</i>	The Iranian hagiocracy banned swimsuits.
<b>diction</b>	<i>(word choice)</i>	The pedant confined himself to a scholarly Latin diction.
<b>disconsolate</b>	<i>(inconsolable)</i>	The disconsolate widower missed his best friend.
<b>disingenuous</b>	<i>(insincere)</i>	His disingenuous offers of assistance fooled the ingenue.
<b>fractious</b>	<i>(unruly)</i>	The fractious, dissatisfied mob clamored for vengeance.
<b>nondescript</b>	<i>(of no category)</i>	The beggar wore a nondescript garment.
<b>prolific</b>	<i>(productive)</i>	The prolific writer wrote seven books in two years.
<b>chronicle</b>	<i>(a history)</i>	We read the chronicle of the brave knight-errant.
<b>primeval</b>	<i>(of the first ages)</i>	Coal is the remains of a primeval forest.
<b>panegyric</b>	<i>(elaborate eulogy)</i>	His speech was a panegyric on her engineering talent.
<b>fidelity</b>	<i>(faithfulness)</i>	He required the fierce fidelity of his lieutenants.
<b>magnum opus</b>	<i>(great work)</i>	Read Dante's magnum opus, the <i>Divina Comedia</i> .
<b>antediluvian</b>	<i>(from before the Flood!)</i>	He loved his grandfather's antediluvian ideas.
<b>comport</b>	<i>(behave)</i>	Leadership requires one to comport oneself with dignity.
<b>insurgence</b>	<i>(uprising)</i>	The insurgence was as soon defeated as it was begun.
<b>expeditiously</b>	<i>(rapidly)</i>	We need to process a customer's request expeditiously.
<b>renovate</b>	<i>(restore)</i>	It would be expensive to renovate the apartments.
<b>carnage</b>	<i>(butchery)</i>	They viewed the sickening carnage on the battlefield.
<b>decadent</b>	<i>(downfallen)</i>	The decadent, luxurious century saw little greatness in art.
<b>supercilious</b>	<i>(scornful)</i>	His arrogant, supercilious manner offended everyone.
<b>inexorable</b>	<i>(inescapable)</i>	Her inexorable fate followed her everywhere.
<b>emissary</b>	<i>(messenger)</i>	They greeted an emissary from the Queen.
<b>improvident</b>	<i>(without foresight)</i>	The improvident spendthrift went broke.
<b>moribund</b>	<i>(dying)</i>	The moribund corporation fired half its work force.



1. **Induction** is different from **deduction**. In deduction we lead (duct) down (de) to true statements by starting from high principles, and in induction we lead (duct) facts into (in) the mind in order to form them into truths. In deduction we think downward from principle, in induction we bring facts in and think up from them.
2. An **ingenuous** person is innocent, naive, sincere. A **disingenuous** person is the opposite—experienced, deceptive, insincere. If the ingenuous person is original (gen) and fresh, the disingenuous person is certainly not.
3. A **nondescript** dog or a nondescript outfit is one which is indescribable because it belongs in no category. Notice that words depend upon categories. What kind of dog was it? Well, it was a . . . a . . . What can you say about a dog that is NOT anything? It was a nondescript dog. Notice the stems: not (non) easily written (script) down (de).
4. A Micropoem: **Antediluvian** ideas are so outdated they are from before the Flood. THE flood, you know. This word is deliberately humorous.
5. How does the word **comport** mean to behave? We often say that someone carries himself well. **Comport** is like that; the way you behave is the way you carry (port) yourself.
6. A Micropoem: **Supercilious** means scornful because it refers to the scornful, condescending, raising (super) of the eyebrow (cilia) exhibited by the haughty person. When someone raises one eyebrow and looks at you down his nose, that is a supercilious gaze.
10. **Ten Pronunciation Tips**  
panegyric - pan uh JIRR ik  
inexorable - in EX or able  
supercilious - super SILL ee uss  
decadent - DECK ah dent  
chronicle - KRON ick ul  
hagiocracy - haje ee OCK rah see  
primeval - prime EE val  
antediluvian - antee di LOO vian  
disingenuous - dis in JENN yoo uss
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:

diction : dicción  
disconsolate : desconsolado  
prolific : prolífico  
chronicle : crónica  
fidelity : fidelidad  
renovate : renovar

insurgence : insurgencia  
decadent : decadente  
inexorable : inexorable  
emissary : emisario  
moribund : moribundo  
induction : inducción

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## The Word Within the Word • Classic Words #30

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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 Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

I spoke in \_\_\_\_\_ accents, and looked at the room as if I had an oil well in my own backyard.

- a. prolific
- b. disingenuous
- c. antediluvian
- d. supercilious

2. From Jonathan Wyss's *The Swiss Family Robinson (in translation)*

He said there seemed to be the skeleton of an \_\_\_\_\_ monster there.

- a. insurgent
- b. antediluvian
- c. improvident
- d. inexorable

3. From Eudora Welty's *One Writer's Beginnings*

Time eats from the tombstones of the past the epitaphs of \_\_\_\_\_ greatness.

- a. disconsolate
- b. decadent
- c. moribund
- d. primeval

4. From Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Then had come Lord Henry with his strange \_\_\_\_\_ on youth, his terrible warning of its brevity.

- a. panegyric
- b. magnum opus
- c. chronicle
- d. induction

5. From John Knowles's *A Separate Peace*

\_\_\_\_\_ were already dropping in to confer with him.

- a. Hagiocracies
- b. Emissaries
- c. Insurgents
- d. Antediluvians

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The Word Within the Word • Mystery Spelling #30

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<b>induction</b>	in duct ion
<b>hagiocracy</b>	hagio cracy
<b>diction</b>	dict ion
<b>disconsolate</b>	dis con sol ate
<b>fractious</b>	fract i ous
<b>disingenuous</b>	dis in gen u ous
<b>nondescript</b>	non de script
<b>prolific</b>	pro li fic
<b>chronicle</b>	chron i cle
<b>primeval</b>	prim eval
<b>panegyric</b>	pan e gyr ic
<b>fidelity</b>	fid el ity
<b>magnum opus</b>	magn um op us
<b>antediluvian</b>	ante di luv ian
<b>comport</b>	com port
<b>insurgent</b>	in surg ent
<b>expeditiously</b>	ex ped iti ous ly
<b>renovate</b>	re nov ate
<b>carnage</b>	carn age
<b>decadent</b>	de cad ent
<b>supercilious</b>	super cili ous
<b>inexorable</b>	in ex or able
<b>emissary</b>	e miss ary
<b>improvident</b>	im pro vid ent
<b>moribund</b>	mor i bund

**SYNTHESIS:**

Which words in List #30 would be most useful in a discussion of social behavior?

**DIVERGENCE:**

**Antediluvian** ideas are ideas that are outmoded, antiquated, anachronistic. They are ideas that are so old that they date from before (ante) the Flood (diluvia)! What ideas can you think of that we consider antediluvian today?

**ANALYSIS:**

Break down the following words: **nondescript**, **improvident**, **decadent**, **renovate**, and **chronicle**.

**EVALUATION:**

A **magnum opus** is a masterpiece, a very great work indeed. What do you think is *the* magnum opus in American literature? In British literature? In world literature? Why do you think so?

**INTUITION:**

You are entering a **primeval** forest in a strange land. What is the first living thing that you encounter? Describe your encounter with this living thing.

**EMOTION:**

How would you feel if you received a **panegyric** from the boss as a result of something you had done at the office?

**AESTHETICS:**

What are the criteria that distinguish good diction from bad **diction**? How can we apply aesthetic concepts to the use of words? Can we?