

The Word Within the Word • List #5

vita	<i>(life)</i>	vitamin, vitality, vital, revitalize, viable, vitalism, devitalize	<i>Latin</i>
demo	<i>(people)</i>	democracy, demography, undemocratic, democratize	<i>Greek</i>
stereo	<i>(solid)</i>	stereoscope, stereophonic, stereotype, stereopticon, stereotropism	<i>Greek</i>
ism	<i>(doctrine)</i>	Marxism, capitalism, Imagism, Cubism, nihilism, pluralism, tribalism	<i>Greek</i>
cogn	<i>(know)</i>	recognize, cognizant, incognito, cognoscenti, cognomen, precognition	<i>Latin</i>
sur	<i>(over)</i>	surplus, surpass, surcharge, surface, surfeit, surmount, surname, surtax	<i>Latin</i>
alter	<i>(other)</i>	alternator, alteration, alter ego, alternative, altruism, altercation	<i>Latin</i>
astr	<i>(star)</i>	astronomy, astrology, asteroid, disaster, asterisk, astrophysics, astrolabe	<i>Greek</i>
dyna	<i>(power)</i>	dynamic, dynamo, dynamite, dynasty, dynamometer	<i>Greek</i>
chron	<i>(time)</i>	chronometer, chronological, synchronize, chronic, anachronism	<i>Greek</i>
hyper	<i>(over)</i>	hyperactive, hyperventilate, hyperbole, hyperacidity, hypertension	<i>Greek</i>
luna	<i>(moon)</i>	lunar, lunatic, lunate, luna moth, lunette, sublunar, lunular	<i>Latin</i>
octa	<i>(eight)</i>	octameter, octagenarian, octagon, octarchy, octave, octopus, octahedron	<i>Greek</i>
gyro	<i>(turn)</i>	gyration, gyroscope, gyre, gyrate, spirogyra, gyromagnetic, gyrocompass	<i>Greek</i>
contra	<i>(against)</i>	contradict, contrary, contrast, contrapuntal, contraband, contravene	<i>Latin</i>
geo	<i>(earth)</i>	geography, geothermal, geology, geophysics, geometry, geosynchronous	<i>Greek</i>
helio	<i>(sun)</i>	Helios, heliotropic, heliocentric, heliograph, perihelion, aphelion	<i>Greek</i>
thermo	<i>(heat)</i>	thermostat, thermos, thermotropic, thermonuclear, thermocouple	<i>Greek</i>
tetra	<i>(four)</i>	tetrameter, tetrahedron, tetroxide, tetragon, tetrachloride, tetracycline	<i>Greek</i>
meter	<i>(measure)</i>	thermometer, millimeter, octameter, hydrometer, odometer	<i>Greek</i>
scope	<i>(look)</i>	telescope, microscope, periscope, radarscope, horoscope, electroscope	<i>Greek</i>
son	<i>(sound)</i>	sonar, unison, sonorous, sonnet, dissonance, resonant, supersonic	<i>Latin</i>
dec	<i>(ten)</i>	decade, decaliter, decimal, decagon, decathlon, decimate, dodecahedron	<i>Greek</i>
stell	<i>(star)</i>	interstellar, stelliform, stellar, constellation, stellate, stellify	<i>Latin</i>
amat	<i>(love)</i>	amatory, amateur, amorous, amiable, amigo, amour-propre, amity	<i>Latin</i>

dia

across • through • apart

The Greek stem *dia*, which we define as meaning *across*, actually can have a wide variety of meanings. *Dia* can mean *across, through, throughout, apart, or between*. Here are some of the interesting words that contain *dia* in its various shades of meaning:

- diachronic:** of changes over time. The book was a study of many diachronic phenomena.
- diadem:** a crown. The diadem was placed carefully on her head.
- diacritic:** a diacritical mark. The macron is a diacritical mark.
- dialect:** local speech. He spoke a recognizable Northern Michigan dialect.
- dialogue:** conversation. Plato's philosophy is in the form of Socratic dialogues.
- diagnosis:** identifying disease. Her diagnosis determined that the patient had cancer.
- diametrical:** opposite. Their political views were diametrical opposites of each other.
- diageotropism:** growing along the earth surface. Diageotropic plants covered the ground.
- dianoetic:** logical rather than intuitive. She used a dianoetic process to decide.
- diastema:** a gap between teeth. The orthodontist was able to correct the boy's diastema.
- diaphoretic:** increasing perspiration. The medicine had a diaphoretic side-effect.
- diapause:** delay in growth. Some insects have periods of diapause in their life cycles.
- diatonic:** 8-note scale without intervals. The diatonic scale is widely used in rock n' roll.
- diastole:** dilation of the heart. With any luck, one's diastole will follow one's systole.
- diarthrosis:** a free-moving joint. The hip joint is an example of diarthrosis.
- diathermic:** letting heat pass through. The new glass had superior diathermic resistance.
- diagenesis:** change in sediments. Diagenesis occurs between deposition and consolidation.
- diaphragm:** the midriff. The pain came from somewhere in the diaphragm.
- diathesis:** a predisposition to a disease. Diathesis may call for certain precautions.

The Word Within the Word • Sentences #5

1. In the spring of 2215, the rebuilt New York was a revitalized city.
2. The theory of democracy was proven effective by the United States.
3. If there is stereophonic sound, can there be stereo smell?
4. Is capitalism the opposite of Marxism?
5. The Magnum Leader was traveling incognito to avoid recognition.
6. The overwhelming economic disasters could not be surmounted.
7. Our previously unchanged plans have suffered an alteration.
8. If the asteroid struck the earth, it would be a disaster.
9. Her dynamic personality made her an obvious choice for the powerful role.
10. Please synchronize your chronometers.
11. The hyperactive child began to hyperventilate.
12. Are lunatics really subject to lunar influences on their sanity?
13. The octarchy decided to invade Macedonia.
14. The dancers' spinning gyrations continued into the night.
15. Their contradictory remarks offered a sharp contrast of views.
16. Which earth study do you prefer: geology, geography, or geophysics?
17. Galileo thought that the solar system was heliocentric, not earth-centered.
18. The thermotropic plants were killed by the cold front.
19. Is a square a tetragon or a tetrahedron?
20. The hydrometer measured the flow of the trout stream.
21. Alien warships appeared on the radarscope.
22. The senator's sonorous voice was her best political weapon.
23. The olympic decathlon winner was famous for a decade.
24. The interstellar spaceship launching was a stellar occasion.
25. The amateur astronomer was an amiable fellow who loved his hobby.

The Word Within the Word • Ideas #5

DIVERGENCE:

1. As the word **lunatic** indicates, we once believed that the moon sometimes had a direct effect on some people's sanity. Who are history's famous lunatics? Try to think of at least ten.
2. How many places can you think of where you would be forced to travel **incognito**?

ANALYSIS:

1. Is the solar system **heliocentric** or **geocentric**? Explain how you can tell by analyzing the parts of the words.
2. Explain the composition of the word **constellation**.

EVALUATION:

1. Do you think that perhaps a country ruled by an **octarchy** (Yes, I know—there aren't many octarchies around these days!) would make fewer serious mistakes in its foreign policy than one ruled by a **monarchy** or a **presidency**? What is the most logical form of government.
2. What is the difference between an old neighborhood that should be torn down and an old neighborhood that should be **revitalized**? If you were a city planner, what criteria would you use to make such a decision?

INTUITION:

1. Think of a really creative use for a **thermos**. Think of a really creative use for a **thermostat**.
2. Think of an unpredictable **disaster** that might befall a mining colony on a large **asteroid**.

EMOTION:

1. Which words on List #5 would only be used in very formal speech, such as a lecture?
2. Which words on List #5 might a coach use to fire up a team?

The Word Within the Word • Analogies #5

1. **cubism : capitalism ::**
geometry : money
art : economy
doctrine : structure
theory : philosophy
2. **heliocentric : geocentric ::**
circle : square
solar : lunar
sun : center
sun : earth
3. **perihelion : aphelion ::**
solar : lunar
perigee : apogee
perimeter : circumference
heliograph : telegraph
4. **dissonance : resonance ::**
harsh : rich
music : polyphony
polyphony : instrument
cacophony : pandemonium
5. **tetrameter : tetrahedron ::**
rhythm : pyramid
music : musician
four : angle
number : figure
6. **precognition : incognito ::**
forecast : weather
cognizant : ignorant
foreknowledge : disguise
prediction : verification
7. **chronic : transitory ::**
enduring : ephemeral
subsonic : unison
octave : octopus
chronicle : transfix
8. **octagon : octahedron ::**
plane : solid
eight : octopus
octave : sound
antagonist : protagonist
9. **nihilism : hedonism ::**
system : doctrine
geothermal : thermotropic
skepticism : pleasure-seeking
Imagism : painting
10. **hyperbole : understatement ::**
democracy : demography
decathlon : decathlete
constellation : star
surfeit : paucity

1. A Micropoem: Why were mathematical formulas invented for calculating areas and volumes of spatial objects? The answer is found in the name of that branch of mathematics. **Geometry** was devised so that ancient civilizations would be able to measure (meter) the earth's (geo) surface in order to accurately divide it for farming and other purposes. Geometry began as a method of earth-measuring.
2. You might expect the word **viable** to be based on the stem via (road, way). But it is actually a variation of vita (life). A fetus is viable when it is able to live.
3. Why is a musical **octave** called an octave? Because music is based on a system that recycles at the eighth (octa) note. The notes run A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and the next note is A again, but it is an octave higher than the previous A.
4. Are the voices of the chorus in **unison**? If they do not form one (uni) sound (son), then they are not.
5. What happens in my brain when I **recognize** you? To recognize you means that I know you now, and the next time I see you I will know (cogn) you again (re).
6. The early astronomers' confusion about the nature of **asteroids** is apparent in the construction of the word. We know today that an asteroid is actually a big chunk of rock floating in space, but to the ancient astronomers it had the appearance (oid) of a star (aster).
7. When an army is badly defeated, we say the army has been **decimated**. This once meant that one in every ten (dec) soldiers had been killed (mat).
8. Some words suggest sound effects. A **resonant** voice is a deep, echoing, far-carrying voice. It booms. It sounds (son) and sounds again (re).
9. A Micropoem: If you wanted to describe a terrible event that befell a person, you might call it a tragedy. But if you wished to describe an awesome, cosmic calamity, one that affected thousands or millions of people, then you might call it a disaster, because the word **disaster** suggests a destruction involving even the stars (aster) themselves. An immense meteorite striking the earth (such as the one which reputedly killed the dinosaurs) would be a suitable candidate for the word disaster.
10. **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:

vitality : vitalidad
incognito : incógnito
altruism : altruismo
anachronism : anacronismo
geophysics : geofísica
heliocentric : heliocéntrico
amiable : amable
constellation : constelación