path	(feeling)	sympathy, pathetic, pathos, telepathy, empathy, apathy, idiopathy	Greek
a	(not)	amoral, amorphous, atheist, apathy, agraphia, apolitical, aphasia, achromatic	Greek
nomy	(law)	astronomy, economy, Deuteronomy, taxonomy, heteronomy, nomothetic	Greek
fid	(faith)	infidel, fidelity, confidence, diffident, bona fide, fiduciary, perfidy	Latin
caco	(bad)	cacophony, cacography, cacodemon, cacoëthes, cacodyl, cacology	Greek
hetero	(different)	heterodox, heteromorphic, heterogeneous, heterosexual, heteronym	Greek
sci	(know)	science, conscience, prescience, omniscience, scientism, sciomancy	Latin
graph	(write)	bibliography, photograph, autograph, polygraph, stenography	Greek
lat	(side)	bilateral, unilateral, lateral fin, multilateral, collateral, latitude	Latin
lith	(rock)	neolithic, paleolithic, lithograph, megalith, monolith, lithium, laccolith	Greek
tract	(pull)	tractor, detract, retraction, attractive, protractor, contract, traction	Latin
in	(in or not)	inscribe, insane, infidel, indefinite, incorrigible, insomnia	Latin
co	(together)	cooperate, coordinating, coterminous, colloquy, coauthor, cotangent	Latin
phile	(love)	philosopher, audiophile, bibliophile, philologist, philanthropy	Greek
ine	(nature of)	porcine, crystalline, saturnine, canine, ursine, vulpine, bovine	Greek
-ar	(relating to)	pulsar, stellar, lunar, solar, secular, columnar, linear, circular	Latin
hexa	(six)	hexagram, hexagon, hexapod, hexameter, hexahedron, hexarchy	Greek
fract	(break)	fracture, infraction, fraction, refraction, refractory, fractious	Latin
platy	(flat)	plateau, platyhelminthes, platypus, plate, platitude, platyrrhine	Greek
theo	(god)	theology, pantheism, atheism, monotheism, apotheosis, henotheism	Greek
fin	(end)	final, define, infinite, finial, finis, Finisterre, infinitive, fin de siecle	Latin
hedron	(sided object)	polyhedron, tetrahedron, heptahedron, octahedron, icosahedron	Greek
ambul	(walk)	ambulatory, somnambulism, funambulist, ambulance, perambulate	Latin
ous	(full of)	luminous, glorious, loquacious, vivacious, garrulous, anomalous, zealous	Latin
topo	(place)	topographical, topology, topic, topiary, toponym, topognosia	Greek

pro

forward • before • for

The Latin stem **pro**, which we usually define as meaning *forward*, actually can mean *before* or *for*. Furthermore, there is also a Greek stem *pro* that means *before*. Here are some of the interesting words that contain **pro** in its various shades of meaning:

procumbent:	lying face-down. They took a procumbent position in the tall grass.
progeny:	offspring. The father's physiognomy was written on the faces of his progeny.
profuse:	generous. There was something suspicious about his profuse apology.
prognathous:	projecting in the jaw. The prognathous jaw gave him a vaguely equine visage.
prolepsis:	anticipating. In brilliant prolepsis, she refuted his case before he even made it.
prolocutor:	a spokesperson. A green prolocutor stepped forth from the alien craft.
propitiate:	to appease. Achilles sacrificed an ox to propitiate the sensitive gods.
propagate:	to breed. Many species were unable to propagate in the deforested area.
pro rata:	proportionate. The spoils were divided on a pro rata basis.
propound:	to propose. Frederick Douglass propounded a series of antislavery policies.
proselyte:	a convert. The cult's proselytes were oblivious to the ominous implications.
protuberant:	bulging. The children's protuberant stomachs revealed the pain of the famine.
provident:	showing foresight. Their provident labor gave them ample food for the winter.
prospect:	a vista. From the hilltop, Hannibal had a prospect of the Roman army.
pronominal:	of a pronoun. Demonstrative adjectives have a pronominal function.
propaedeutic:	elementary instruction. The table of basic facts had propaedeutic value only.
pro patria:	for one's country. He regarded his career as a *pro patria* obligation.
prologue:	introductory remarks. The play begins with a prologue by the protagonist.
procryptic:	having protective coloration. The moth's bark-shade was a procryptic effect.
proboscis:	a trunk. Cyrano's proboscis reminded Christian of an elephant's trunk.
prodigy:	a genius. The young chess prodigy's combinations crushed the grandmaster.

1. The **pathetic** child received **sympathy.**

2. The unexpected **anomaly** was **amorphous** in shape and **atypical** in structure.

3. What is the difference between **astronomy** and **agronomy?**

4. Does a **diffident** person have self-confidence?

5. If **cacophony** hurts the ear, what sense organ does **cacography** hurt?

6. The **heterogeneous** mixture of odd substances had a noisome odor.

7. If science could give us **prescience**, would it be a good idea to know the future?

8. Would you like a **photograph** of my **autograph?**

9. Is this treaty **bilateral** or **multilateral?**

10. The shiny red **tractor attracted** many buyers.

11. Please **inscribe** something **insane** in my annual.

12. He refused to **cooperate** with the **copilot.**

13. My friend, the **audiophile**, has a wonderful collection of recordings.

14. The **crystalline** substance began to evaporate.

15. The **lunar** surface is bombarded by **solar** rays.

16. What is the difference between a **hexagram** and a **hexagon?**

17. It's an **infraction** of the rules to **fracture** someone's nose.

18. The **platypus** has a plate-like bill.

19. The Greek **pantheon** of gods was not a **monotheistic** religious system.

20. Is outer space **infinite** or **finite?**

21. Did the **neolithic** age come before the **paleolithic** age?

22. Is a **tetrahedron** a cube or a pyramid?

23. Can an **ambulatory** hospital patient **somnambulate** without waking up?

24. The **luminous** moonlight was **glorious** to behold.

25. The **topography** of the region was a fascinating **topic.**

1. We sometimes say that terms like *a lot* are **colloquial**, meaning that they are conversational—too informal to be used in a formal research paper. What does **colloquial** literally mean? It refers to the sort of language you use when you talk (loqu) together (co).

2. A Micropoem: If a platypus is a flat-billed critter, what is a **platitude**? It is a flat remark, one that is stale and uninteresting. Trite. A Platitude is a FLATitude! The ironic point about platitudes is that they are usually uttered as though they were novel and witty. Ho hum.

3. Everyone knows that **polygraph** is the scientific name of the lie detector test. But why is the lie detector test known as the polygraph, since **poly** means *many* and **graph** means *write* or *record*? The answer is that the polygraph is an instrument which makes a record of many different things simultaneously as the subject answers questions. The polygraph records changes in blood pressure, pulse rate, respiration, and other factors.

4. A person who is **saturnine** is a person with a personality in the nature of (ine) the planet Saturn. Saturn is distant, cold, dark, and cloudy. You wouldn't like it there, and a saturn-like person is not much fun to be around, either.

5. Like animal crackers, animal adjectives are small but tasty. With animal adjectives you can describe a huge man as **ursine** (bearlike), a gobbling eater as **canine** (doglike), a messy slob as **porcine** (piglike), or a person with long protruding jaws as **equine** (horselike). A crafty person could be **vulpine** (foxlike), and a predatory person might be **lupine** (wolflike). Although these adjectives have wonderful impact, they can be cruel, so it is best to use them with care.

6. **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:

   apathy : apatía
   perfidy : perfidia
   cacophony : cacofonía
   omniscient : omniciente
   incorrigible : incorregible
   fracture : fractura
   monotheism : monoteísmo
   somnambulism : sonambulismo
   topographical : topográfico