

The Word Within the Word • List #21

equivocate	<i>(to hedge)</i>	The equivocating politician praised both groups.
superfluous	<i>(unnecessary)</i>	A superfluous comment is a waste of time.
bilateral	<i>(two-sided)</i>	The two nations formed a bilateral agreement.
unilateral	<i>(one-sided)</i>	The U.S. made a unilateral withdrawal.
circumspect	<i>(cautious)</i>	A circumspect reply is safer.
commensurate	<i>(of like measure)</i>	A big job needs a commensurate reward.
malevolence	<i>(evil intent)</i>	The creature cast a malevolent glare.
neophyte	<i>(beginner)</i>	She is a neophyte in the art world.
misanthropist	<i>(people-hater)</i>	The grouchy misanthropist wouldn't contribute.
bellicose	<i>(warlike)</i>	The bellicose tribe attacked without warning.
anthropomorphic	<i>(man-shaped)</i>	They believe in an anthropomorphic god.
captious	<i>(fault-finding)</i>	The captious remarks were not sincere.
neologism	<i>(new word)</i>	Create a neologism, like televoracious.
malediction	<i>(a curse)</i>	The convict's muttered malediction was inaudible.
incredulous	<i>(not believing)</i>	Her incredulous expression showed her feelings.
omniscient	<i>(all-knowing)</i>	You can't keep secrets from an omniscient god.
monomania	<i>(obsession with one thing)</i>	It was a hobby that became a monomania.
specious	<i>(false)</i>	You have a convincing but unfortunately specious argument.
excoriate	<i>(verbally flog)</i>	His speech excoriated the opponent.
prototype	<i>(first model)</i>	We saw an early prototype of the Mustang.
xenophobia	<i>(fear of foreigners)</i>	It is a hostile, xenophobic country.
benediction	<i>(blessing)</i>	The Pope's smiling benediction was televised.
amorphous	<i>(shapeless)</i>	A gray, amorphous mass was in the corner.
preponderance	<i>(bulk)</i>	The preponderance of the evidence indicates guilt.
magnanimous	<i>(great-minded)</i>	His magnanimous victory speech showed generosity.