

## The Word Within the Word • List #8

<b>sed</b>	<i>(sit)</i>	sedentary, sediment, sedan, sedative, sedate, supersede, assiduous, insidious	<i>Latin</i>
<b>leg</b>	<i>(read)</i>	legible, legend, illegible, legendary, legibility, alleged	<i>Latin</i>
<b>anim</b>	<i>(mind)</i>	equanimity, animal, animated, animosity, magnanimous, animadversion	<i>Latin</i>
<b>tort</b>	<i>(twist)</i>	contorted, torture, tortuous, retort, distort, torturous, tort, tortilla	<i>Latin</i>
<b>nym</b>	<i>(name)</i>	homonym, acronym, pseudonym, anonymous, patronymic, anomaly	<i>Greek</i>
<b>sanct</b>	<i>(holy)</i>	sanctity, sanctimonious, sacrosanct, sanctuary, unsanctioned, sanctify	<i>Latin</i>
<b>meta</b>	<i>(change)</i>	metamorphosis, metaphor, metaphysics, metastasize, metabolism	<i>Greek</i>
<b>petr</b>	<i>(rock)</i>	petrify, petroleum, petrology, petroglyph, petrophilous, petrochemical	<i>Latin</i>
<b>mir</b>	<i>(wonder)</i>	miracle, mirage, mirror, mirabile dictu, admire, mirabilia, miracle play	<i>Latin</i>
<b>man</b>	<i>(hand)</i>	manual, manicure, manipulate, manacles, amanuensis, legerdemain	<i>Latin</i>
<b>rect</b>	<i>(right)</i>	correct, rectitude, direct, rectilinear, rectangle, rectify, rector, erect	<i>Latin</i>
<b>volv</b>	<i>(roll)</i>	revolve, involved, devolve, convoluted, volvox, revolution, volvulus	<i>Latin</i>
<b>demi</b>	<i>(half)</i>	demigod, demitasse, demisemiquaver, demiurge, demimonde, demirep	<i>Latin</i>
<b>retro</b>	<i>(backward)</i>	retroactive, retrofire, retrogress, retrospection, retrofit, retrorse	<i>Latin</i>
<b>sens</b>	<i>(feel)</i>	sense, sensitive, sensation, sensory, extrasensory, insensate	<i>Latin</i>
<b>fy</b>	<i>(make)</i>	fortify, rectify, horrify, solidify, reify, transmogrify, sanctify, pacify	<i>Latin</i>
<b>ocul</b>	<i>(eye)</i>	binocular, monocular, ocular, oculist, oculomotor nerve, oculometer	<i>Latin</i>
<b>cur</b>	<i>(care for)</i>	cure, curator, curative, cure-all, sinecure, secure, curate	<i>Latin</i>
<b>ultra</b>	<i>(beyond)</i>	ultramarine, ultraconservative, ultraviolet, ultramundane	<i>Latin</i>
<b>oid</b>	<i>(appearance)</i>	android (droid!), anthropoid, asteroid, adenoid, xyloid, haploid	<i>Greek</i>
<b>gest</b>	<i>(carry)</i>	gestation, digest, ingest, congestion, gesticulate, gesture	<i>Latin</i>
<b>apt</b>	<i>(fit)</i>	adapt, aptitude, maladapted, adaptation, aptly, aptness	<i>Latin</i>
<b>tact</b>	<i>(touch)</i>	tactile, contact, tactful, intact, tactility, taction	<i>Latin</i>
<b>voc</b>	<i>(voice)</i>	vociferously, vocal, sotto voce, invocation, vocabulary, convocation	<i>Latin</i>
<b>rid</b>	<i>(laugh)</i>	ridicule, deride, derision, risibility, ridiculous	<i>Latin</i>

# re

## again • back • anew

The Latin stem *re*, which we usually define as meaning *again*, can also mean *back*, or *anew*. It is one of the most common prefixes in English, which is not surprising since as human beings we exist in a continuum of time and memory that makes us aware of the againness of our experiences. The list of words beginning with *re* stretches for pages in any college dictionary. Here are some of the interesting words that contain *re* in its various shades of meaning:

rebate:	to give back. The company rebated ten percent of the purchase price.
rebut:	to refute. His mendacious testimony was rebutted by three witnesses.
recalcitrant:	defiant of authority. Athena's recalcitrant nature incurred Jove's anger.
recluse:	solitary person. The great poet Emily Dickinson lived as a recluse.
recoup:	to get back. She recouped her investment when the profits rose.
recreant:	a cowardly traitor. The unctuous recreant pretended loyalty to King Lear.
redoubt:	a stronghold. The Hobbit watched as the goblins stormed the redoubt.
redux:	restored. The diffident protagonist, redux, had survived his adventures.
refection:	refreshment. Light refectations were served after the ceremony.
refurbish:	to renovate. Jane gradually refurbished Rochester's mansion.
rejoinder:	an answer. They were unprepared for Churchill's swift rejoinder.
relapse:	to fall back. After the seeming improvement, he suffered a serious relapse.
relucant:	bright. The beach shimmered with relucant reflections.
remand:	to send back. He was remanded into custody to await trial.
replicate:	a reproduction. They were unable to accurately replicate the reported effect.
repatriate:	send to country of birth. Eventually, most expatriates repatriate.
repugnant:	offensive. The skinhead's ethnocentric views were offensive to decent citizens.
reprehend:	to reprimand. He was sternly reprehended for his reprehensible deeds.
retinue:	assistants. The naive king never suspected traitors among his retinue.
retentive:	having good memory. Her retentive powers were legendary.
revivify:	put new life into. His commitment was revived by the victory.

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## The Word Within the Word • Sentences #8

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1. His **sedentary** job left him weak and out of shape.
2. The college student's handwriting was **illegible**.
3. The bitter **animosity** made him lose his **equanimity**.
4. The **tortuous** highway was **torture** to drive.
5. NATO, RADAR, SCUBA, and OPEC are **acronyms** made of initials.
6. For many Americans, the principles of democracy are **sacrosanct**.
7. The werewolf is famous for his **metamorphosis** from man-shape to wolf-shape.
8. Is the **Petrified** Forest a desert?
9. After the surgery, it was a **miracle** to look in the mirror.
10. After the **manual** labor, she need a **manicure** to restore her hands.
11. Follow the **directions**, if you want the correct answers.
12. The wheels of the Volvo slowly **revolved**.
13. The beautiful near-human **demigod** drank from a dainty **demitasse** cup.
14. The class reunion left me in a sentimental, **retrospective** mood.
15. The explorer could **sense** the presence of the beast.
16. It is time to **solidify** the gains we have made before they evaporate.
17. Primates are known for **binocular** vision which helps them judge distances.
18. The **curator** of the Pacific Museum cared for the Polynesian artwork.
19. Which color do you prefer, **ultramarine** or **ultraviolet**?
20. If an **asteroid** resembles a star, what does an **android** resemble?
21. **Congestion** is an unpleasant symptom of a cold.
22. It can be difficult to **adapt** to a new environment.
23. The electrodes sparked at the point of **contact**.
24. The noisy crowd made **vociferous** objections to the announcement.
25. When she was **derided** by her friends, she responded with **ridicule**.

1. The stem **meta** is a difficult stem to explain in a simple way. Sometimes it means **change**, sometimes **afterwards**, and sometimes **beyond**. Be very flexible in your interpretation.
2. When a job provides a comfortable income but contains few responsibilities, we call the job a **sinecure**. Even though the word originally had an ecclesiastical meaning concerning the curing of souls, it is still true that a sinecure in the modern sense is a job without (sine) a care (cur).
3. Are you a **secure** person? Then you are also without (se) unnecessary cares (cur).
4. There are echoes of the past in many words. A **mirror** is a common object today, one that shows a reflection of a person's face. But there was a time when a good mirror was a new invention, when people had never seen their own faces as well as they had seen the faces of others, and in those days a mirror still had the power to strike a person with wonder (mir). We still use the term **admire** (wonder at) to describe how one regards himself in the mirror. In modern times mirrors have sometimes been shown to primitive tribes who had no experience of mirrors, and this event caused a great sensation among the tribesmen.
5. In mathematics we use exponents to raise numbers to higher powers. We occasionally do something similar inside a word. To sanctify something is to make it holy, and a sacred place is a holy place. To regard something as **sacrosanct**, therefore, is to consider it doubly holy, or holy<sup>2</sup>. We achieve this point by bolting together two stems that both mean the same thing: holiness. **Cascade** is a similarly constructed word; it literally means fall (cas) fall (cad).
6. Don't confuse the words **tortuous** and **torturous**. They both contain the stems **tort** (twist) and **ous** (full of), but **tortuous** means full of twists (a tortuous highway), and **torturous** means full of torture (a torturous journey).
7. You might think that **supersede** means go (cede) over (super), and that the **c** in **cede** has been changed to an **s**. But actually, the word is based not on **cede** but on **sed**, meaning sit. Something that supersedes over-sits, or replaces, what has come before.
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:

assiduous : asiduo  
equanimity : ecuanimidad  
sanctimony : santimonio  
sacrosanct : sacrosanto  
sanctuary : santuario  
metamorphosis : metamorfosis  
rectify : rectificar  
ultramarine : ultramarino  
vociferous : vociferante