
The Word Within the Word • List #18

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|----------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| atmo | <i>(vapor)</i> | atmosphere, atmolysis, atmometer, atmospheric, atman | <i>Greek</i> |
| cardio | <i>(heart)</i> | cardiology, cardiovascular, cardiac, electrocardiogram | <i>Greek</i> |
| cosmo | <i>(world or universe)</i> | cosmos, cosmopolitan, cosmonaut, cosmology, microcosm | <i>Greek</i> |
| counter | <i>(against)</i> | counteract, counterproductive, counterpoint, counterinsurgence | <i>Latin</i> |
| cranio | <i>(skull)</i> | craniology, intracranial, craniotomy, cranium, dolichocephalic | <i>Greek</i> |
| cyclo | <i>(circle)</i> | cyclone, cyclotron, bicycle, encyclopedia, recycle, cyclical | <i>Greek</i> |
| gno | <i>(know)</i> | agnostic, prognosis, gnostic, Gnosticism, diagnosis, topognosia, ignominy | <i>Greek</i> |
| oss | <i>(bone)</i> | ossify, ossuary, ossicle, osseous, ossiferous, ossein, ossification | <i>Latin</i> |
| xylo | <i>(wood)</i> | xylophone, xylograph, xyloid, xylophagous, xylose, xyotomy, xylem | <i>Greek</i> |
| monger | <i>(seller)</i> | fishmonger, warmonger, costermonger, ballad monger, phrasemonger | <i>Latin</i> |
| sept | <i>(seven)</i> | septangular, September, septuagenarian, septillion, Septuagint | <i>Latin</i> |
| xeno | <i>(stranger)</i> | xenophobia, xenolith, xenon, xenogenesis, xenodiagnosis | <i>Greek</i> |
| vas | <i>(vessel)</i> | vasoconstrictor, cardiovascular, vase, vessicle, vascular, vasectomy | <i>Latin</i> |
| fore | <i>(front)</i> | forehead, foreboding, forecast, forethought, foresail, forefront | <i>Latin</i> |
| ish | <i>(like)</i> | greenish, smallish, outlandish, snobbish, ghoulish, squeamish, mannish | <i>Old English</i> |
| less | <i>(without)</i> | fruitless, hopeless, motherless, bootless, pointless, hapless, feckless | <i>Old English</i> |
| baro | <i>(pressure)</i> | barometer, barograph, barometric, barogram, barometry | <i>Greek</i> |
| ferro | <i>(iron)</i> | ferronickel, ferromagnetic, ferrous, ferric, ferrite, ferroconcrete | <i>Latin</i> |
| quasi | <i>(somewhat)</i> | quasar, quasi-military, quasi-stellar, quasi-official, quasi-judicial | <i>Latin</i> |
| nesia | <i>(island)</i> | Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia, Austronesia | <i>Greek</i> |
| lepsy | <i>(attack)</i> | narcolepsy, epilepsy, catalepsy | <i>Greek</i> |
| let | <i>(little)</i> | booklet, piglet, aglet, hamlet, coverlet, omelet | <i>Latin</i> |
| nano | <i>(billionth)</i> | nanosecond, nanoplankton, nanosomia, nanogram | <i>Greek</i> |
| pico | <i>(trillionth)</i> | picofarad, picosecond, picogram | <i>Italian</i> |
| ideo | <i>(idea)</i> | ideograph, ideology, ideologue, ideogram, idée fixe, idealism | <i>Greek</i> |

multi

many • more than two

The Latin stem **multi**, which we define as meaning *many*, can mean *consisting of many*, *affecting many*, *more than two*, *more than one*, or even *many times more than*. **Multi** is shortened to **mult** before vowels. Here are some of the interesting words that contain **multi** in its various shades of meaning:

- multistage:** having several stages. The multistage rocket performed flawlessly.
- multihued:** of many colors. The multihued foliage fell slowly to the ground.
- multifarious:** diverse. It was a vigorous population of multifarious talents and interests.
- multitude:** a large number. A multitude had assembled at the mount to listen.
- multiform:** having many shapes. It was a multiform evolution from one shape to another.
- multifid:** in many divisions. The multifid leaves had many divisions or lobes.
- multifaceted:** having many aspects. It was a multifaceted problem, defying simple solutions.
- multiparous:** bearing multiple offspring. The bears were multiparous and bore several cubs.
- multidirectional:** in many directions. The anti-infantry weapon was a multidirectional explosive.
- multilingual:** speaking many languages. Bilingual at first, he became multilingual in time.
- multitudinous:** manifold. The red planet swarmed with multitudinous microscopic species.
- multilateral:** many-sided. The multilateral negotiations were slow and frustrating.
- multinational:** of many nations. The World Health Organization used multinational efforts.
- multipartite:** of many parts. The ethnic groups wanted a multipartite division of the country.
- multangular:** of many angles. The modern art museum was a sharp, multangular structure.
- multiracial:** of many races. The United States is a vigorous, multiracial society.
- multimillionaire:** having many millions. In his cupidity, he dreamed of being a multimillionaire.
- multivariate:** of many variables. The complex system demanded multivariate analysis.
- multicellular:** having many cells. The multicellular species greedily on the protozoans.
- multiplicative:** multiplying. Through a strange multiplicative factor the waveform intensified.
- multistory:** having many stories. They looked for a multistory mansion to lease.

The Word Within the Word • Sentences #18

1. The **atmometer** measures the rate of evaporation of water.
2. The **cardiologist** studied the **cardiac** patient's **electrocardiogram**.
3. The orbiting Soviet **cosmonaut** had **cosmopolitan** views and tastes.
4. The command was **countermanded** by his British **counterpart**.
5. The **craniotomy** was performed by a skilled brain surgeon.
6. The **cyclone** hurled the bicycle fifty yards.
7. **Agnostics** are not usually attracted to **Gnosticism**.
8. Over the years, his habits had **ossified** beyond hope of change.
9. **Xylophagous** insects had eaten the antique **xylophone**.
10. The **costermonger** and the **fishmonger** shouted out prices to passersby.
11. **September** was the seventh month of the Roman calendar.
12. The flood of immigration stirred the **xenophobia** of the citizens.
13. The **cardiovascular** system responded gradually to the exercise.
14. The storm **forecast** filled her with **foreboding**.
15. The **smallish** object had a faint, **greenish** tint.
16. Their assault on the mountain summit proved **hopeless**, **bootless**, and **fruitless**.
17. Some think that high fashion is a **barometer** for stock market trends.
18. The company geologist studied the **ferrous** rock with care.
19. The **quasi-military** operation into Cambodia has failed.
20. We visited **Polynesia**, **Micronesia**, and **Melanesia**.
21. His uncontrollable **narcolepsy** made it hard for him to stay awake.
22. The **booklet** circulated through the **hamlet**.
23. The computation is made in less than a **nanosecond**.
24. There are a thousand **picoseconds** in one nanosecond.
25. The stubborn Chinese **ideologue** wrote his ideas in **ideograms**.

1. If you think for a moment about the many great cities of the world, cities on every continent and in every terrain and climate, and if you think of how it would change you to spend time traveling over the world, getting to know these great cities, to understand them, to feel at home in them, then you begin to understand the sense of the word **cosmopolitan**. To be cosmopolitan is to be sophisticated, traveled, knowledgeable about what is available. To be cosmopolitan is not to be provincial, but to understand the things that people who know the cities (polis) of the world (cosmo) understand.
2. What is a **xylophone**? It is a series of wooden (xylo) bars of different lengths mounted on felt pads. When the wooden bars are struck, they make different sounds (phon), depending on the length of each bar. Though modern xylophones sometimes use metal bars, the word **xylophone** still means the *sound of wood*.
3. Perhaps the most derogatory term we have to describe a truly bad poet is the term **balladmonger**. It implies that the work isn't truly poetry at all, but merely mediocre lyrics, and that the poet isn't really an artist but a vendor (monger), trying to foist his bad words off on the public. **Balladmonger** is a fiercer term than **rhymester** or **poetaster**, which are also terms of derision for bad poets. Poetry tends to excite the emotions of those who wish to defend it; Emerson once pulled out all the stops in an effort to condemn the ostentatiously technical poetry of Edgar Allan Poe. Emerson called Poe "the jingle man."
4. A Micropoem: The word **atmosphere** contains an interesting feat of vision. Imagine what the atmosphere would look like from space if the rest of the earth became completely invisible. The resulting sight would be just what the word implies: an immense sphere of vapor (atmo), floating in space. The atmosphere is a vaporsphere.
5. **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:

atmosphere : atmósfera
cosmopolitan : cosmopolita
agnostic : agnóstico
xylophone : xilófono
cardiovascular : cardiovascular
xenophobia : xenofobia