

Glossary

accede	to arrive at or come into office Latin: ad = to; cedere, cessum = to go	bi-lingual	speaking two languages Latin: bi = twice; lingua = tongue, language
adjective	a word which describes (or qualifies) a noun Latin: adjicere, adjectum = to add	biology	the science of living things Greek: bios = life; logos = word, study
adverb	a word which is added to a verb to express a circumstance (<i>for example: time, place, manner</i>) Latin: ad = to; verbum = word	bungalow	a one-storey house Hindi: bangla = a one storey house
alphabet	a system of letters, each standing for a sound Greek: the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: <i>alpha</i> and <i>beta</i>	cede	to yield, to give something up to another person Latin: cedere, cessum = to yield
anaemia	bloodlessness, a condition in which there is a lack of red corpuscles in the blood Greek: an = without; haema = blood	cent	a hundredth part of a dollar Latin: centum = one hundred
anonymous	without a name Greek: an = without; onoma = name	centenarian	someone who is a hundred years old Latin: centum = one hundred; annus = a year
anticyclone	a rotating flow of air outwards from a high pressure area Greek: anti = against, opposite; kykloein = to whirl about	centenary	a hundredth anniversary Latin: centum = one hundred; annus = a year
antipathy	dislike, hatred Greek: anti = against; pathos = feeling	centigrade	having a hundred degrees (as in the centigrade thermometer) Latin: centum = one hundred; gradus = step
antonym	a word meaning the opposite of another Greek: anti = opposite; onoma = name	centimetre	the hundredth part of a metre Latin: centum = 100; French: metre = metre (from Greek: metron = measure)
apathy	indifference, having no feelings about anything Greek: an = without; pathos = feeling	centipede	a myriapod (a creature with many joints each of which has a pair of legs) Latin: centum = 100; pes, pedis = foot
appendectomy	an operation in which the appendix is removed Latin: ad = to; pendere = to hang Greek: ektome = cutting out	centre	the middle point of anything Greek: kentron = a sharp point
appendicitis	inflammation of the appendix Latin: ad = to; pendere = to hang Greek: -itis = a condition of	cheetah	an Eastern animal like a leopard Hindustani: chita (from Sanskrit: chitraka = having a speckled body)
arthritis	inflammation of the joints Greek: arathon = joint; -itis = a condition of	chutney	an East Indian condiment of mangoes, chillies etc., an imitation made with home materials. For example: apples Hindustani: chatni
beef	the flesh of the cow eaten as food French: boeuf = bull, ox	comparative	setting things together to see how far they agree (or disagree) Latin: con/com = with; par = equal

complement	something that completes or fills up Latin: con/com = with; plere = to fill	geriatrician	a specialist in illnesses of old people Greek: geras = old age; iatros = doctor
concede	to yield or give up Latin: con = altogether; cedere, cessum = to yield	gradation	a raising step by step Latin: gradus = step
cotton	cloth made from the long hairs covering the seeds of the cotton plant Arabic: qutun = cotton	grade	a step or degree Latin: gradus = step
cow	a bovine animal Anglo-Saxon: cu = cow	gradient	the degree of a slope compared with the horizontal Latin: gradus = step
cyclone	a system of winds blowing inwards to an area of low pressure Greek: Kyklos = circle; lyien = to loose; Kykloein = to whirl about	gradual	advancing by degrees; gentle and slow Latin: gradus = step
cystitis	inflammation of the bladder Greek; kyklos = bladder; -itis = a condition of	graduate	to pass by grades; someone who has passed the steps leading to a university degree Latin: gradus = step
decimal	numbered in tens Latin: decem = ten	gramophone	an instrument for recording sound Greek: gamma = letter; phone = voice
democrat	one who believes in government by the people Greek: demos = people; Kratos = strength	graph	a kind of diagram Greek: grapheein = to write
dermatitis	inflammation of the skin Greek: derma = skin; -itis = a condition of	gynaecologist	a specialist in the illnesses of women Greek: haema = blood; logos = word, study
dermatologist	a specialist in diseases of the skin Greek: derma = skin; logos = word, study	haematologist	a specialist in diseases of the blood Greek: haema = blood; logos = word, study
dialysis	the separation of substances by diffusion through a membrane Greek: dia = through; lyien = to loose	hippopotamus	a large African animal that lives in rivers Greek: hippos = horse; potamus = river
dual	two-fold; joint (control) Latin: duo = two	homonym	a word with the same sound as another Greek: homo = the same; onoma = name
empathy	feeling as though you were in the place of another person Greek: en = in; pathos = feeling	hypersensitive	feeling too much Greek: hyper = over; Latin: sensere = to feel
exceed	to go beyond the limit Latin: ex = out; cedere, cessum = to go	hypothermia	a condition in which the body temperature is lower than is safe Greek: hypo = below; thermos = heat
expel	to drive out Latin: ex = out; pellere = to drive	hysterectomy	an operation in which the womb is removed Greek: hystera = womb; ektome = cutting out
fiance	a man who is engaged to be married (woman - fiancée) French: fiance = betrothed	ideograph	a written character that stands for the thing itself not for sounds Greek: idea = idea; graphein = to write
geology	the science of the earth's crust Greek: ge = earth; logos = word, study		

illiterate	unable to read or write Latin: litera = letter	microscope	an instrument for making sounds greater Greek: micros = little; skopeein = to look
intercede	to act as peacemaker between two other people Latin: inter = between; cedere, cessum = to step	millipede	a myriapod (a creature with many joints each of which has a pair of legs) Latin: mille = a thousand; pes, pedis = foot
intransitive	a verb which has no direct object Latin: in = not; trans = through; ire, itum = to go	monogamy	marriage to one wife or husband at a time Greek: monos = one; gamos = marriage
juggernaut	a very large lorry Sanskrit: jaganatha = lord of the world	monolingual	speaking only one language Greek: monos = one; Latin: lingua = tongue, language
ketchup	a sauce made from mushrooms, tomatoes etc. Malay: kechap (from Chinese)	monopoly	sole right to sell something Greek: monos = one, alone; poleein = to sell
khaki	dust-coloured Hindustani: khaki = dusty	monotheism	belief in only one god Greek: monos = one; theos = god
kowtow	to abase oneself Chinese: K'o = to knock; t'ou = head (from Chinese ceremony of lying with one's face touching the floor before the Emperor)	multi-lingual	speaking more than one language Latin: multus = many; lingua = tongue, language
literacy	a state of being able to read and write Latin: litera = letter	mutton	sheep's flesh as food French: mouton = sheep
literate	able to read and write Latin: litera = letter	neuritis	inflammation of a nerve Greek: neuron = nerve; -itis = a condition of
mammoth	an extinct kind of elephant Russian: mammot = elephant	neurologist	a specialist in diseases of the nerves Greek: neuron = nerve; logos = word, study
mandarin	an official (originally in the Chinese Empire) Chinese: (through Portuguese: mandarim)	noun	a word which means something Latin: nomen = name
marathon	a long distant foot race Greek: Marathon (the scene of a victory by the Greeks over the Persians in 490B.C. A Greek ran from Marathon to Athens to bring the good news.)	octagon	an eight-sided figure Latin and Greek, octo = eight; petalon = petal
marmalade	a marmalade of the pulp and rind of oranges Portuguese: marmelo = quince	ophthalmologist	a specialist in diseases of the eye Greek: ophthalmos = eye; logos = word, study
mastectomy	an operation in which the breast is removed Greek: mastos = nipple; ektome = cutting out	paediatrician	a specialist in the illnesses of children Greek: paedos = child; iatros = doctor
megalosaurus	a dinosaur like a gigantic lizard Greek: megalos = great saurus = lizard	pagoda	an Eastern temple, especially one with a tapering tower of many storeys, each with a projecting roof
microphone	an instrument for making sounds greater Greek: micros = little	paranormal	beyond the normal Greek: para = beyond; norma = rule

pedal	a lever pressed by the foot Latin: pes, pedis = foot	pneumonia	inflammation of the lungs Greek: pneumon = lung
pedestal	the support of a column etc. Latin: pes, pedis = foot	polygamy	marriage to more than one person at a time Greek: poly = many; gamos = marriage
pedestrian	someone who goes on foot Latin: pes, pedis = foot	polytechnic	a university-type school where many arts are taught (especially technical subjects) Greek: poly = many; techne = art
pedicure	the treatment of corns, bunions etc. Latin: pes, pedis = foot; cura = care	polytheism	belief in many gods Greek: poly = many; theos = god
pedometer	an instrument for measuring how far someone has walked Latin: pes, pedis = foot; Greek: metron = measure	pork	swine's flesh as food French: pore = pig
phantom	a ghost Greek: phantasma = appearance	posterity	people who will live later in time Latin: post = after
pharmacy	the preparation of drugs Greek: pharmakon = drug	post-mortem	enquiry after death Latin: post = after; mortem = death
pheasant	a kind of bird Greek: phasis = River Phasis; omis = a bird	post-natal	after birth Latin: post = after; natus = having been born
phenomenon	something that may be observed Greek: phainein = to show	postpone	to put off or delay Latin: post = after; ponere positum = to put
philanthropy	love of people Greek: phainein = to show anthropos = man	postposition	a word placed after a noun in some languages to mark some relation Latin: post = after; ponere positum = to place
philosophy	love of wisdom Greek: phileein = to love; sophia = wisdom	potato	a vegetable Spanish: patata = sweet
phlebitis	inflammation of a vein Greek: phlebos = vein; -itis = condition of	precede	to go before in time or importance Latin: pre = before; cedere, cessum = to step
phosphorus	a metallic element which gives out light in the dark Greek: phos = light; phoros = bearing	pre-Conquest	before the conquest (usually the Norman Conquest of England in 1066) Latin: pre = before
photograph	a picture produced by light on a chemical surface Greek: phos, photos = light; grapheein = to write	prefabricated	made beforehand (usually of parts of a building made in a factory and assembled on site) Latin: pre = before; French: fabriquer = made
photosynthesis	the transforming of sunlight into plant form Greek: phos, photos = light; syn = with, together; thesis = placing	preposition	a word placed before a noun to mark some relation Latin: pre = before; ponere, positum = to put
phrase	a group of words Greek: phrazein = to speak	proceed	to go on Latin: pro = forward; cedere, cessum = to step
physics	the study of matter and energy Greek: physics = nature		
pneumonectomy	an operation in which a lung is removed Greek: pneumon = lung; ektome = cutting out		

proper	one's own French: propre = own	superlative	excelling all others Latin: super = over latus = carried
quadrilateral	a four-sided figure Latin: quattuor, quad = four; latus, lateris = side	supervise	to watch over, inspect Latin: super = over videre, visum = to see
quinquireme	an ancient ship with five sets of oars Latin: quinque = five; remus = oar	swine	a pig Anglo-Saxon: swin = pig
recede	to go back Latin: re = back; cedere, cessum = to step	sympathy	feeling with somebody Greek: syn = with, together; pathos = feeling
redecorate	to decorate again Latin: re = back again; decorate = to adorn	synonym	a word which has the same meaning Greek: syn = with, together; onoma = name
regular	acting according to rule Latin: regula = rule	tattoo	a design on the skin Tahitian: ta'tau = tattoo
re-instate	to give someone his position back Latin: re = back, again; in = in; stare, statum = to stand	telepathy	communicating with somebody without using the senses Greek: tele = far; pathos = feeling
re-address	to write another address (usually on an envelope) Latin: re = back again	telephone	an instrument for receiving sound from afar Greek: tele = far; phone = voice
robot	a mechanical man Czech: robota = work	telescope	an instrument for viewing far-off objects Greek: tele = far; skopeein = to see
sari	a Hindu woman's chief garment, a long cloth passed round the waist and over the shoulder and head Hindustani: sari	theology	the study of god or religion Greek: theos = god; logos = work, study
script	writing; system of writing Latin: scribere, scriptum = to write	tonsillectomy	an operation in which the tonsils are removed Latin: tonsillae = tonsils Greek: ektome = cutting out
sheep	a domestic animal Anglo-Saxon: sceap = sheep	tonsillitis	inflammation of the tonsils Latin: tonsillae = tonsils Greek: -itis = a condition of
sub-human	less than human Latin: sub = under	transitive	a verb which has a direct object Latin: trans = through, across; ire, itum = to go
submarine	a ship that goes under the sea Latin: sub = under; mare = sea	triennial	every three years Latin: tres, tria = three; annus = year
subordinate	lower in status Latin: sub = under; ordo, ordinis = order	unison	everyone singing the same tune Latin: unus = one; sonus = sound
succeed	to come after; to turn out well Latin: sub = under, near; cedere, cessum = to step	verb	a doing word Latin: verbum = word
superannuated	over age of work Latin: super = over; annus = year	volcano	a mountain of ash or lava with a central pipe through which more molten lava and ash may explode Italian: vulcano = volcano (from Latin: vulcan = the god of fire)
superhuman	greater than human Latin: super = over		