

Words from Latin

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Study Words

inane
 ambivalent
 incriminate
 interrupt [1]
 amicable
 meticulous
 animosity
 curriculum
 electoral
 transect
 condolences [4]
 bugle
 subterfuge
 carnivore [5]
 prosaic [6]
 magnanimous
 simile
 innate
 mediocre
 precipitate
 intractable
 retrospective
 omnipotent
 alleviate
 capitulation
 necessary
 conjecture
 corporal
 participant
 primal
 ventilate
 reptile
 foliate
 renovate
 canine
 femininity
 popularity
 vivisection
 contiguous
 current
 incorruptible

Challenge Words

soliloquy
 efficacy
 indigenous
 infinitesimal
 precocious
 facetious

relevant
 dejected
 access
 alliteration
 lucid [2]
 fastidious
 implement
 omnivorous
 crescent [3]
 precipice
 benefactor
 formidable
 abdicate
 gregarious
 herbivore
 benevolent
 jovial
 obstinate
 insidious
 erudite
 exuberant [7]
 ominous
 consensus
 spectrum
 incredulous
 adjacent
 imperative
 patina
 library
 filament
 aquatic
 providence
 nasal
 credentials
 measure
 confidence
 diary
 strict
 ductile
 perfidy

accommodate
 visceral
 belligerent
 recalcitrant
 ameliorate
 prerogative

impetuous
 postmortem
 plausible
 refugee
 percolate
 trajectory
 ambiguity
 bellicose
 obsequious
 susceptible
 candidate
 canary
 lunatic
 ostentatious
 prodigal
 mercurial
 ridiculous
 discern
 rupture
 colloquial
 ingenious
 vulnerable
 discipline
 prescription
 affinity
 dissect
 predicate
 Capricorn
 cognition
 unity
 igneous
 message
 opera
 temporal
 credible
 triumvirate
 humble
 prosecute
 gradient
 fidelity

pernicious [8]
 exacerbate
 vernacular
 innocuous
 commensurate
 ubiquitous

egregious
corpuscle

aggregate
perennial

tertiary

Spelling Tips

1 One of the hardest things to remember about words from Latin is whether an internal consonant (like rr in interrupt) is doubled. To reinforce your memory of the correct spelling, try to remember related words all together (like interrupt along with interruption or necessary along with necessity).

2 The \ü\ sound (as in ooze) is nearly always spelled with u in words from Latin. It typically follows a \d\, \j\, \l\, \r\, or \s\ sound. After other consonants, this sound normally becomes \yü\ (as in bugle, subterfuge, ambiguity, and prosecute and in one pronunciation of refugee).

3 Beware of words like crescent in which the \s\ sound is spelled with sc in words from Latin. Other examples include visceral, discern, discipline, susceptible, and corpuscle.

4 When you hear within a word from Latin the \s\ sound followed by any of the sounds of e (long, short, or schwa), there's a possibility that the \s\ sound is spelled with c as in exacerbate, access, adjacent, condolences, facetious, and necessary.

5 The letter i is a vowel often used to connect two Latin word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\ə\), and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter i might be a good guess: See carnivore and herbivore. Other examples include non-study-list words that end in iform such as oviform and pediform.

6 The letter k rarely appears in words from Latin, and its sound is nearly always represented by c as in canary, prosaic, canine, mediocre, Capricorn, cognition, ductile, incorruptible, vernacular, innocuous, and many other words on the list.

7 The letter x often gets the pronunciation \gz\ in words from Latin (as in exacerbate and exuberant).

8 The combination ious ends many adjectives of Latin origin. When the consonant that precedes ious is c or t, the sound of the final syllable is \shəs\ as in facetious, ostentatious, pernicious, and precocious. It is important to keep in mind that several adjectives from Latin ending with this sound end in eous rather than ious. In such instances, the definitions of the words usually contain phrases such as "consisting of," "resembling," or "having the characteristic of." Examples include non-study-list words herbaceous, cetaceous, and lilaceous.

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Words from Arabic

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Study Words

azure	Islamic	sultan
artichoke	mummy [1]	tarragon
adobe	mohair	borax
talc	arsenal	lemon
tuna	admiral	hazard
apricot	carmine	monsoon
average	gazelle [2]	crimson
orange	sequin	macrame
algebra	guitar	nabob
giraffe	mattress	elixir
saffron	cotton	albatross [3]
zero	safari [4]	magazine
zenith	alfalfa	imam
mosque	alcohol	tariff
lilac	alcove	massage
henna [5]	alchemy	sugar
taj	mahal	khan
ghoul		

Challenge Words

muslin	camphor	algorithm
minaret	tamarind	carafe
julep	marzipan	nenuphar
alcazar	tahini	Qatari
alkali	serendipity	nadir
douane	fennec	hafiz
azimuth	bezoar	halal
alim	Swahili	serdab
mihrab	salaam	mukhtar
khorr	foggara	diffa
coffle		

Spelling Tips

1 Double consonants are often seen in words from Arabic. More often than not, they occur in the middle of a word as in mummy, cotton, henna, foggara, coffle, tarragon, and several other words on the list. Their appearance at the end of a word (as in albatross and tariff) is usually because of the spelling conventions of English or some other language that the word passed through to get here.

2 A typical word from Arabic has three consonant sounds, with or without vowels between them. Gazelle, safari, talc, carafe, mahal, tahini, alkali, hafiz, and salaam are typical examples.

3 Note how many words on this list begin with al: This spelling can be traced to the definite article al ("the") in Arabic, which sometimes gets borrowed along with a word. Most of the time the spelling is al in English, but note el in elixir.

4 A long e sound (ē) at the end of a word from Arabic is often spelled with i as in safari and several other words on the list but may also be spelled with y as in mummy and alchemy.

5 The schwa sound (ə) at the end of a word from Arabic is usually spelled with a as in henna, tuna, algebra, alfalfa, foggara, and diffa.

Words from Asian Languages

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Study Words

dugong	guru	cushy
seersucker	jungle	oolong
nirvana	bangle	cummerbund
juggernaut	pangolin	mahatma
rupee	mongoose	shampoo
typhoon	bamboo	jackal
dungaree	bungalow	gunnysack
chutney	karma	jute
yamen	raj	kama
pundit	loot	kavya
jiva	pandit	chintz
patel		

Challenge Words

gymkhana	basmati	gingham
mandir	bhalu	gourami
masala	raita	asana
batik	charpoy	durwan
mahout	prabhu	Buddha
topeng	tanha	lahar
jnana	Holi	

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Words from French

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Study Words

peloton	barrage	chagrin [1]
pacifism	manicure	altruism
bureaucracy	mascot	parfait
mystique	layette [2]	boutique
dressage	croquet	gorgeous
denture	mirage	denim
cachet [3]	neologism	beige
diplomat	motif	suave
foyer [4]	clementine	ambulance
rehearse	leotard	prairie [5]
diorama	entourage	fuselage
boudoir	collage [6]	amenable
expertise	matinee	plateau
sortie	croquette	physique [7]
elite	deluxe	nougat
rouge [8]	escargot	crochet
regime	doctrinaire	tutu
bevel	menu	egalitarian
quiche [9]	fatigue	garage
morgue	stethoscope	vogue
musicale	palette	flamboyant
baton	souvenir	impasse
finesse	maladroit	

Challenge Words

gauche	rapport	camouflage
genre	virgule	debacle
fusillade [10]	saboteur	renaissance
chauvinism	recidivist	chassis
détente	raconteur	mayonnaise [11]
surveillance	repertoire	dossier
taupe	poignant	garçon
croissant	ecru	lieutenant
protégé	mélange	blasé
fête	ingenue	rendezvous

Spelling Tips

1 French nearly always spells the \sh\ sound with ch, and this spelling of the sound is very common in words from French. Chagrin, chauvinism, and crochet are examples.

2 A word from French ending with a stressed \et\ is usually spelled with ette as in layette and croquette.

3 A long a sound (\ā\) at the end of a word from French can be spelled a number of ways. One of the more common ways is with et as in cachet, croquet, and crochet.

4 One way to spell long a at the end of a word from French is with er as in dossier and in foyer. (Most Americans, however, do not pronounce the ending of foyer with a long a.)

5 A long e sound (\ē\) at the end of a word from French can be spelled with ie as in prairie and sortie. (But see exercise 4 under Now You Try for another spelling of the long e ending.)

6 Words ending with an \ăzh\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled age as in collage, mirage, dressage, garage, barrage, camouflage, entourage, and fuselage.

7 A \k\ sound at the end of a word from French is often spelled que as in physique, mystique, and boutique.

8 The \ü\ sound (as in rouge and many other words on the list) in words from French is usually spelled with ou. Sometimes, however, it is spelled with u as in tutu and ecru.

9 When the \sh\ sound occurs at the end of a word from French, there is nearly always a silent e that follows it, as in quiche and gauche.

10 Words ending with an \äd\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled ade as in fusillade.

11 French speakers have a number of vowels that English speakers modify in pronunciation. Our way of pronouncing the French aise (pronounced \ez\ in French) is usually \ăz\.

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Eponyms

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Study Words

praline
hosta
salmonella
tortoni
gardenia
zinnia
samaritan
jeremiad
shrapnel
Boswell
Fletcherism
bandersnatch
Dracula

magnolia
poinsettia
newton
greengage
melba
quisling
Panglossian
hector
vulcanize
ampere
yahoo
Crusoe

boysenberry
macadamia
saxophone
angstrom
tantalize
begonia
quixote
Geronimo
Frankenstein
cupid
diesel
mentor

Challenge Words

forsythia
mercerize
dahlia
guillotine
gnathonic
braggadocio

madeleine
Fahrenheit
Baedeker
Bobadil
pasteurize

bromeliad
narcissistic
philippic
mesmerize
Croesus

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Words from German

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Study Words

angst [1]	pretzel	waltz
haversack	nosh	sauerbraten
hinterland	verboten	liverwurst
streusel	umlaut	wanderlust
eiderdown	schnauzer	lederhosen
kohlrabi	sitzmark	langlauf
autobahn	Backstein	inselberg
gestalt	einkorn	kitsch [2]
gestapo	schloss	rucksack
echt	bratwurst	knapsack
feldspar	poltergeist	noodle
spareribs	Meistersinger [3]	pumpernickel
Bildungsroman	strudel	bagel
hamster	cobalt	nachtmusik
vorlage [4]	graupel	Wagnerian
cringle	fife	glitz
homburg	kuchen	pitchblende
spritz [5]	prattle	zwinger
spitz	realschule	panzer
stollen	dachshund	seltzer

Challenge Words

schadenfreude [6]	dreidel	weimaraner
ersatz	fräulein	blitzkrieg [7]
gesundheit	pfeffernuss	edelweiss [8]
glockenspiel	rottweiler	schottische
anschluss	wedel	springerle
zeitgeber	pickelhaube	schnecke
Weissnichtwo		

Spelling Tips

1 Don't shy away from consonant clusters! German words often have combinations of three or more consonants that don't occur in thoroughly English words. Examples include ngst in angst, sch in schadenfreude, schn in schnauzer, and nschl in anschluss.

2 A \k\ sound in a word from German is usually spelled with k at the beginning of a word or syllable (as in kitsch and einkorn) and often with ck at the end of a word or syllable (as in knapsack and glockenspiel).

3 A long i sound (ɪ) usually has the spelling ei in words from German, as in fräulein, Meistersinger, zeitgeber, and several other words on the list.

4 The \ʃ\ sound, especially at the beginning of a word, is sometimes spelled with v in German words as in vorlage. Other examples include the non-study-list words volkslied and herrenvolk.

5 The letter z is far more common in German than in English. Note that its pronunciation is not usually the same as English \z\. When it follows a t, which is common, the pronunciation is \s\ as in spritz, pretzel, blitzkrieg, and several other words on the list.

6 The \sh\ sound in words of German origin is usually spelled sch as in schadenfreude, whether at the beginning or end of a word or syllable. In schottische, you get it in both places!

7 A long e sound (ɛ̃) usually has the spelling ie in words from German, as in blitzkrieg and glockenspiel.

8 The letter w is properly pronounced as ʋ in German, as you hear in one pronunciation of edelweiss and in wedel and Weissnichtwo. Many German words, however, have become so anglicized that this pronunciation has vanished. Most Americans, for example, say "bratwurst," not "bratvurst."

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Words from Slavic Languages

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Study Words

gulag	parka	Slav
robot	samovar	kremlin
troika	slave	mammoth
Siberian	tundra	Permian
kishke	glasnost	paprika
sable	kasha	nebbish
polka	Bolshevik	vampire
sputnik	knish	cravat
babushka	Soviet	Borzoi
gopak	cheka	sevruga
trepak	babka	purga
baba	cossack	nelma
kovsh	lokshen	feldsher
barabara	aul	

Challenge Words

balalaika	kielbasa	tchotchke
barukhzy	perestroika	apparatchik
commissar	tokamak	pogrom
taiga	Beetewk	

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Words from Dutch

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Study Words

cockatoo	keelhaul	harpoon
furlough	bowery	easel
holster	freebooter	waffle
trawl	uproar	beleaguer
cruller	yacht	wiseacre
brackish	decoy	caboose
buckwheat	walrus	howitzer
crimp	bluff	stipple
floss	cruiser	hustle
klompen	polder	bundle
catkin	splice	Flemish
grabble	huckster	frolic
ravel	tattle	scum
trek	scrabble	clapboard
gruff	isinglass	excise
blister	rabbit	package
muddle	handsome	foist
staple	gulden	mart
screen	guilder	etch
Netherlander	dune	croon
ticket	buckwagon	hock
boodle	guy	daffodil
loiter	potash	scow
wintergreen	trigger	stripe
bruin	skipper	waywiser
spoor	mizzle	school
pickle	snuff	

Challenge Words

mynheer	waterzooi	flense
muishond	witloof	springbok
maelstrom	bobbejaan	keeshond
voortrekker	uitlander	hollandaise
galjoen	schipperke	apartheid
hartebeest	keest	wainscot
rodebok		

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Words from Old English

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Study Words

quell [1]	barrow	dearth
bower	paddock	blithe
keen	mongrel	reckless
alderman	whirlpool	belay [2]
cleanser	dreary [3]	bequeath
sallow [4]	dross	lithe
gristle	earwig	fickle
nestle [5]	fennel	nostril
abide	behest	slaughter [6]
gospel	furlong	linseed
nether	fathom	nightingale
farthing	threshold	kith
wanton	loam [7]	yield
mattock	hawthorn	tithe
behoove	forlorn	quiver
hustings	aspen	mermaid
anvil	barley	linden
hassock	orchard	hearth [8]
watery	fiend	goatee
earthenware	windily	dealership
bookkeeping	fiery	learned
nosiest	creepy	errand
daily	gnat	broadleaf
stringy	dairy	workmanship
newfangled	timely	dogged
mootable	womanly	manhandle
folksiness	worrisome	roughhewn
knavery	hurdle	kipper
hundredth	icicle	pinafore
yieldable	hue	

Challenge Words

heifer	mistletoe	salve
kirtle	Wiccan	shrieval
chary		

Spelling Tips

1 Old English likes double consonants following short vowels, especially if the vowel is in a stressed syllable. Examples include quell, paddock, mattock, sallow, fennel, hassock, errand, barrow, kipper, and Wiccan.

2 A long a sound (ā) at the end of words from Old English is nearly always spelled ay as in belay.

3 Long e (ē) at the end of an adjective or adverb from Old English is nearly always spelled with y. Examples include dreary, watery, windily, fiery, creepy, daily, stringy, timely, womanly, and chary.

4 Long o (ō) at the end of words from Old English is typically spelled with ow as in sallow and barrow. By contrast, a long o at the end of a word in many languages that English has borrowed from is simply spelled with o.

5 When the syllable \səl\ ends words from Old English, it is nearly always spelled stle, with the t being silent (as in gristle and nestle).

6 Silent gh after a vowel is common in words from Old English, as in slaughter. Silent gh usually appears after i in words like plight (not on the study list) and nightingale, and it signals that the vowel is pronounced \ɪ\.

7 The vowel combination oa in words from Old English is nearly always pronounced as long o (\ō\), as in loam and goatee. Examples not on the study list include shoal, boastful, and gloaming.

8 Silent e on the end or not? For words from Old English that end in either hard th (\th\), remember this: More often than not, soft th will have a silent e at the end of the word. Consider, for example, bequeath, dearth, kith, hearth, and hundredth versus blithe, lithe, and tithe. Interestingly, the word blithe can be pronounced both ways.

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Words from New World Languages

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Study Words

condor	iguana	hurricane [1]
kahuna	hogan	jerky
muskrat	hominy	wigwam
pampas	caribou [2]	toboggan
persimmon	quinine	powwow
bayou	coyote [3]	tamale
poi	cashew	luau
totem	mahimahi	hickory
cacao	kona	malihini
wikiwiki	Tuckahoe	pecan
chipotle	skunk	woodchuck [4]
chocolate	muumuu	puma
tomato	maraca	petunia
jaguar	buccaneer	llama
succotash	caucus	wampum
mole	toucan	

Challenge Words

opossum	terrapin	ocelot
hoomalimali	coati	jacamar
ipecac	menhaden	sachem

Spelling Tips

1 Remember that words settling down in English are often spelled according to English word patterns. If you're completely unsure of how to spell a word from a New World language, you can try just "sounding it out." This strategy would work for hurricane, muskrat, wigwam, and several other words on the list.

2 Take note of the language(s) a word may have traveled through on its way to English, for the path to English often gives a clue about spelling. For example, if it had been up to an English speaker, the \u028a sound at the end of caribou would probably have been spelled oo; but the influence of French gives us the current spelling because French usually spells this sound ou.

3 Coyote shows evidence of having passed through Spanish on its way to English: The voiced final e is often seen in Spanish words. Two other examples on this list are tamale and mole.

4 Remember what folk etymology is? Words that entered English from New World languages were prime candidates for this process. If parts of a native word sounded familiar, they were often spelled by the settlers in a familiar way, as in woodchuck. Muskrat is also probably a result of folk etymology.

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Words from Japanese

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Study Words

ninja	sushi [1]	tofu
shogun	honcho	karate [2]
samurai	teriyaki	sashimi
tsunami	haiku [3]	futon
mikado [4]	hibachi	origami
geisha [5]	wasabi	ramen
kudzu	banzai	tycoon
sumo	koan	satori
tatami	kami	sukiyaki
kuruma	Meiji	Romaji
odori	miso	Kabuki
geta	sayonara	

Challenge Words

karaoke	nisei	sansei
issei	kibei	

Spelling Tips

1 A long e sound (Ē) is very common at the end of Japanese words and is usually spelled with i as in sushi, teriyaki, wasabi, Meiji, odori, and several other words on the list.

2 In some Japanese words, long e is spelled simply with e (not i) as in karate and karaoke.

3 An ũ sound is also a common way to end Japanese words and is spelled with u as in haiku, tofu, and kudzu.

4 Long o (ō) at the end of a word from Japanese is spelled with o as in honcho, mikado, sumo and miso.

5 A long a sound (ā) heard in geisha is spelled ei in some words from Japanese. Four of the challenge words have this spelling of the long a sound and contain the word element sei, which means "generation."

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Words from Greek

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Study Words

lethargy	android	chronic
biopsy	irony	automaton
enthusiasm	synopsis	homogeneous
odyssey	megalopolis	acme [1]
synonym	orthodox	aristocracy
calypso	patriarch	hierarchy
character [2]	isobar	asterisk
eclectic	melancholy	stoic
chronology	eulogy	didactic
cosmetic	Spartan	geothermal
cynical [3]	homonym	cryptic
hypothesis	academy	pentathlon
antibiotic	diatribe	etymology
hydraulic [4]	trauma	hygiene
semantics	thesaurus	phenomenon [5]
cosmos	protagonist	acronym
paradox	synchronous	misanthropy
sarcasm	ephemeral	polygon
nemesis	syntax	eureka
topography	panic	apostrophe
geranium	metaphor	spherical
xylophone [6]	dynamic	myriad
epiphany	apathy	synergy
amnesia	philanthropy	democracy
strategy [7]	diagnosis	topical
matriarch	endemic	analysis [8]
rhetoric	eponym	agnostic
dogma	idiom	thermal
dyslexia	Olympian	allegory
pragmatic	adamant	protocol
tragic	hydrology	polymer
notochord	biblical	ergonomic
mathematics	tachometer	protein
rhinoceros	hyphen	autopsy
pyre	herpetology	angelic
tritium	androcentric	demotic
geode	hedonism	periscope
geoponics	asthmogenic	monotonous
amphibious	symbiosis	macron

Challenge Words

dichotomy	misogynist	hypocrisy
diphthong	mnemonic	anomaly
zephyr	hippopotamus	euphemism
anachronism	metamorphosis	hyperbole
arachnid	paradigm	Eocene
gynarchy	pneumatic	Hemerocallis
cynosure	philhellenism	euthanasia

philately

cacophony

Spelling Tips

1 In a few words from Greek, e appears at the end of a word and has long e sound \ē\ : Some examples are acme, apostrophe, and hyperbole.

2 A \k\ sound in English often represents a sound from Greek that we don't actually use, and the most common spelling of this sound in English is ch: See anachronism, arachnid, character, chronic, chronology, dichotomy, hierarchy, matriarch, melancholy, patriarch, synchronous, notochord, tachometer, and gynarchy.

3 The most frequent sound that y gets in words from Greek is short i (\i\) as in acronym, calypso, cryptic, cynical, dyslexia, eponym, homonym, myriad, Olympian, synchronous, synergy, synonym, synopsis, syntax, symbiosis and polymer.

4 A long i sound (\ī\) in a word that comes from Greek is sometimes represented by y, especially after h, as in hydraulic, hydrology, hygiene, hyperbole, hyphen, hypothesis, dynamic, cynosure, gynarchy, xylophone and pyre.

5 In ancient Greek, the letter phi (pronounced \fī\) represented a breathy or "aspirated" version of the sound that is represented in English by f. Speakers of Roman-alphabet languages did not have this sound or a corresponding letter, so they substituted the \f\ sound but memorialized the original sound of phi by using ph to spell it. As a result, the English \f\ sound almost always appears as ph in words of Greek origin. Consider, for example: amphibious, apostrophe, cacophony, diphthong, epiphany, euphemism, hyphen, metamorphosis, metaphor, periphery, phenomenon, philanthropy, philately, philhellenism, spherical, topography, xylophone, and zephyr. Hundreds of words in English derived from Greek show this spelling.

6 The letter o is the vowel most often used to connect two Greek word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\ə\) as in xylophone, notochord, orthodox, ergonomic, geonics, and asthmogenic and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter o is a very good guess. The non-study-list words hypnotist, geometric, and electrolyte are among the many, many words made of Greek word elements connected by o.

7 The \j\ sound is always spelled with g in words from Greek. Why? When the \j\ sound appears in words of Greek origin, it does so as an Anglicized pronunciation of a root originally pronounced with a hard g. Note that no j appears in any of the words on this list!

8 A schwa in words from Greek is occasionally spelled with y: See analysis, etymology, misogynist, odyssey, and zephyr.

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Words from Italian

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Study Words

staccato	ballot	confetti [1]
semolina	influenza	cavalry
piazza	cadenza	pistachio
spinet	cantata	incognito [2]
vendetta	contraband	mascara
graffiti	credenza	parapet
falsetto	ditto	provolone [3]
extravaganza	scampi	belladonna
gondola	rotunda	cauliflower
galleria	regatta	crescendo [4]
balcony	portfolio	antipasto
libretto	virtuoso	harmonica
maestro	bravura	fresco
stucco [5]	inferno	ballerina
malaria	grotto	harpichord
allegro	virtuosa	spaghetti
piccolo	ravioli	vibrato
pesto	aria	bambino
salami	Parmesan	oratorio
finale	scenario	contrapuntal
illuminati	concerto	macaroni
palmetto	bandit	fiasco
cameo	sonata	coloratura

Challenge Words

scherzo [6]	adagio	segue
zucchini [7]	capricious	archipelago
charlatan	maraschino	paparazzo [8]
fantoccini	mozzarella	garibaldi
ocarina	prosciutto	trattoria
vivace	cappelletti	pizzicato
intaglio		

Spelling Tips

1 Long e (\ē\) at the end of a word from Italian is usually spelled with i as in confetti, graffiti, zucchini, fantoccini, cappelletti, and many other words on the list. In Italian, a final i usually indicates a plural form. This is not always true, however, of Italian words in English.

2 Long o (\ō\) at the end of an Italian word is spelled with o as in incognito, stucco, virtuoso, concerto, prosciutto, pizzicato, vibrato and many other words on the list.

3 A long e sound (\ē\) at the end of a word from Italian can be spelled with e as in provolone, finale, and one pronunciation of vivace, although this spelling of the sound is less common than i.

4 The \sh\ sound has various spellings in words from Italian; a spelling it usually doesn't have is sh! It can be spelled sc as in crescendo and prosciutto or ch as in charlatan and pistachio. The spelling of the \sh\ sound in capricious is also seen in words that come from Latin—the ancestral language of Italian.

5 The \k\ sound can be spelled cc when it comes before long o (\ō\) as in stucco or when it comes before \ä\ as in staccato.

6 Another Italian spelling of \k\ is ch as in scherzo.

7 The sound \ē-nē\, common at the end of Italian words (it forms diminutives), is usually spelled ini (as in zucchini and fantoccini).

8 The double consonant zz is typically pronounced \ts\ in words from Italian, as in paparazzo, mozzarella, pizzicato, and one pronunciation of piazza.

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Words from Spanish

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Study Words

burrito	embargo [1]	chimichanga
gazpacho	mariachi [2]	sombrero
alligator	canasta	bonanza
chinchilla	machismo	enchilada
pueblo	hacienda	fandango
quesadilla [3]	flotilla	tornado
flamenco [4]	vigilante	adios
cabana	gordita	peccadillo
filibuster	tortilla	vanilla
cilantro	fiesta	anchovy
mesa [5]	ramada	junco
cafeteria	bongo	castanets
mantilla [6]	oregano	lariat
chalupa	buffalo [7]	renegade
langosta	alamo	barrio
cedilla	Argentine	bolivar
amarillo	cordovan	desperado
empanada	tomatillo	diablo
pochismo	sierra	olio
bolero	junta	duenna

Challenge Words

sassafras	punctilio	sarsaparilla
comandante	embarcadero	rejoneador
novillero	picaresque	conquistador
rasgado	vaquero	caballero

Spelling Tips

1 A long o sound (\ō\) at the end of a word is often a mark of Spanish origin, and it is nearly always spelled simply with o as in embargo and many other words on this list.

2 A long e sound (\ē\) at the end of a word of Spanish origin is usually spelled with i as in mariachi.

3 The \k\ sound is sometimes spelled with qu in words of Spanish origin. This is especially true when the vowel sound that follows is long a (\ā\), long e (\ē\), or short i (\i\). Quesadilla and conquistador (in its pronunciations with and without the \s\ sound) are examples from our list.

4 It is much more common for the \k\ sound to be spelled with c in words of Spanish origin. This is almost invariable when the vowel sound that follows is a schwa \ə\ as in canasta and embarcadero; short a (\a\) as in castanets and caballero; or long o (\ō\) as in flamenco and flamenco and junco.

5 A schwa at the end of a word from Spanish is very common and is usually spelled with a as in mesa, bonanza, and several other words on the list.

6 The combination ll in Spanish words is traditionally treated as a single letter and is pronounced as consonant \y\ in American Spanish. When such words enter English, sometimes that sound persists. At other times it is pronounced just like ll would be in an English word: that is, as \l\ . Some words—such as mantilla, tomatillo, amarillo, and caballero—even have two pronunciations in English. Quesadilla, tortilla, and novillero always have the \y\ pronunciation in English; chinchilla, flotilla, vanilla, peccadillo, cedilla, and sarsaparilla always have the \l\ pronunciation. Be on the lookout!

7 Note that, except for ll, double consonants in words from Spanish are not very common. Buffalo and peccadillo represent exceptions. In Spanish, buffalo has only one f and peccadillo has only one c. English spelling rules prefer two consonants as a signal that the previous vowel is short, as is the case in these words.

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