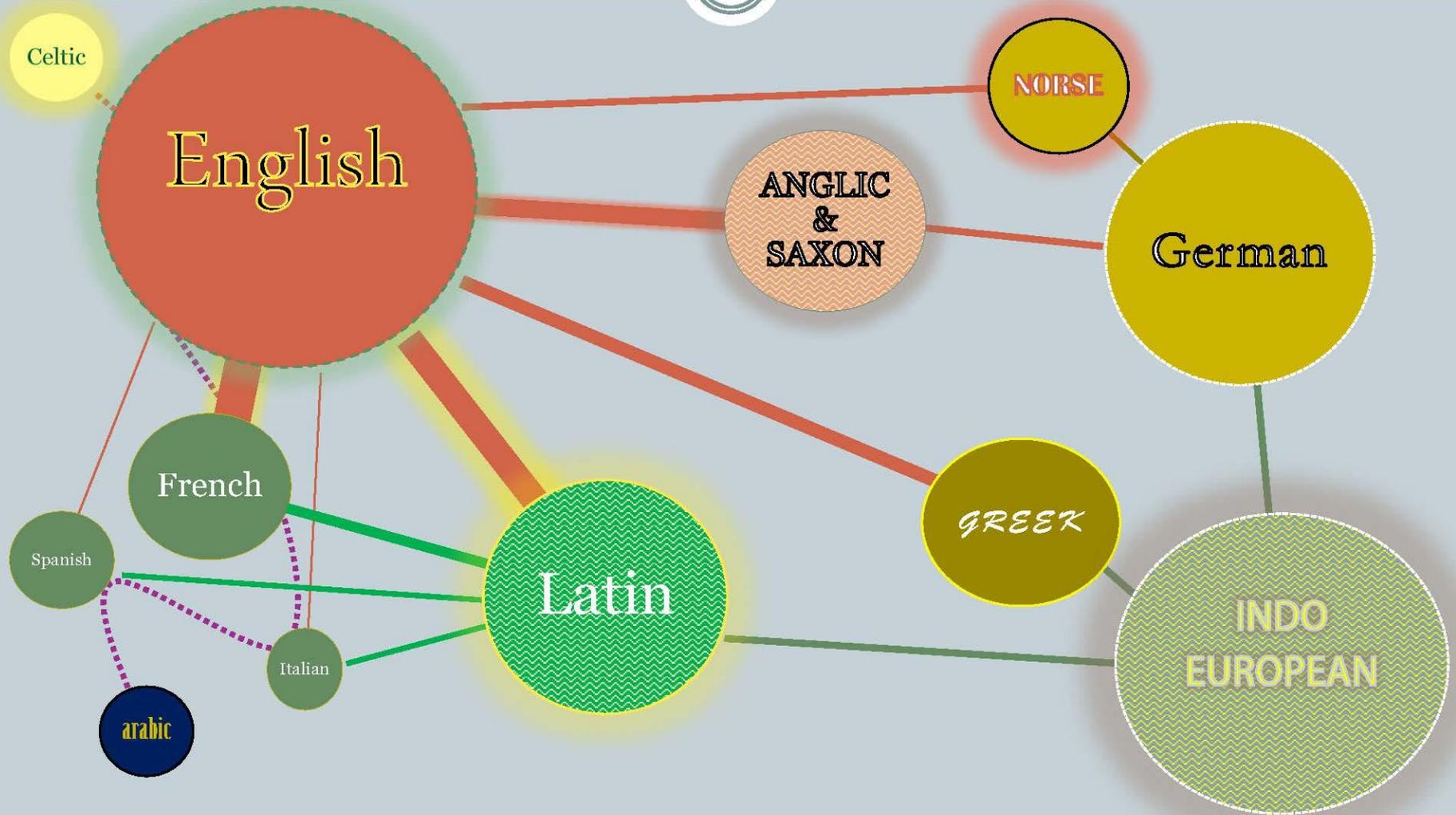


WORD FAMILIES



**COLLECTIONS OF WORDS
THAT SHARE THE SAME ROOT**

The English Family Tree



SPEC = TO LOOK AT



SPEK (PIE) – *Skopos* (GK) – *Specere* (L)

- Spectra - to look at something a lot – to aim for
 - HF - Inspect - Respect - Aspect - Prospect - Expect - Suspect
 - ✦ Respect - turn one's attention toward - look back at - in respect to
 - ✦ Expect - look out for - await
 - LF - introspective - perspective - circumspect - retrospect
 - specter - spectral - spectrum - spectacle - spectator - speculate –skeptic
- Scopos – to observe, target, watch
 - Scope - microscope - stethoscope - periscope – telescope - horoscope
 - species – specimen
 - despise - despicable
 - Spy (spy – from spek or spehon)
 - Strobe (formally “stroboscope” strobos act of whirling)

VERSE / VERT = TO TURN, BEND



WERT (PIE) – *versus* ≈ *vertere* ≈ *vergere* (Latin)

- **Verse** versus **Vert** are variants in English. They may represent different meanings (**converse** – **convert**) or different parts of speech (**inverse** (adj) – **invert** (verb))
- **Verse:** First adopted into Old English as *fers* (a line of writing), meaning at the end of the line you turn to the next.
- Reverse – Revert * Converse – Convert * Divert – Diversify
- Adverse – Perverse – Inverse – Traverse
- Version – Versus – Versatile – Vertical – Vertigo – Vertebra
- Subversive – Diversion – Adversity – Controversy – Conversation – Reversal – Reversion
- Converge - Diverge – On the Verge
- Convertible – Incontrovertible – Irreversible
- Advertise – Inadvertent
- Anniversary - Universal
- † Extravert – Introvert – Pervert

UNIVERSE

VARSITY

UNIVERSITY

universitas - community of
magistorum - masters
et scholarium - and scholars

PORT = journey, harbor, door



PRTU (PIE) – *Poros* (Greek) – *Port* (Latin)

- **port - to carry or bear**
 - HF – **re**port (to carry back) support (to carry from below)
 - ✦ Sport (from now obsolete “*disport*” – carry in many directions)
 - Opportunity – **opportune** (**ob** (to) favorite wind blows to port
 - - important
 - LF - comport – purport – rapport – portly – portfolio
 - **port – journey, gate**
 - **im**port - **ex**port – **de**port – **trans**port (**in, out, away, through**)
 - Passport – portable
 - **port – harbor**
 - port – porter – portable – emporium
 - carport - airport - seaport
- *Diaspora (dia + scatter (sprout))

pore – passage

porous – osteoporosis

VOKE = TO CALL, TO SPEAK



WEKW (PIE) – *Vocem/Vocare* (L) – *Voiz* (Fr)

- **HF** – **In**voke – Revoke – Evoke – Provoke
Vocation - Pro**v**ocation
Vocational - Unprov**o**ked
 - **Academic** — Vociferous - Univocal
Cf. Equivocal and Equivocation
 - **LF** – Vocative - Ventriloquist - Convoke
- **VOICE** – **V**ocabulary – Voiced - Voiceover
Voicelessness - **V**oiceful

JECT = TO THROW



YE (PIE) – *iemi* (GK) – *Jactare/Iactare* (L) – *Jeter* (Fr)

- Inject – Eject – Reject – Deject – Abject
- Project – Projection – Trajectory
Conjecture – Interject – Introjection
- Object – Subject – Adjective
- Objectify – Objectivity – Objection
- Subjective – Subjectivism – to be subjected to
- Jet – Jetstream – Jet plane – Jettison – Jet off – Jetty



Jettying

HIB = TO SEIZE, HOLD, HAVE



GHABH (PIE) – *Habre* (L)

- **Habit**
 - Habituate – Habitat
 - Prohibit – Prohibition * Inhibit – Inhibition * Exhibit - Exhibition
- **Able** - easy to be held or fit for a purpose
(verbal adjective form of *habere*)
 - Ability
 - Enable – Disable
 - Capable – Capacity * Stable – Stability
 - Doable – a notable suffix addable to thousands of words
- **Ible** - As above, but for words directly from Latin
 - Possible, legible, flexible, audible

STET = TO STAND



sta (PIE) – *stasis/statos* (GK) – *sistere* (L)

- **Stet** - To Stand, To Make Firm, To Set Down

- + ABLE = Stable – Stability – Unstable – Instability
- Stance – Stare – Stay – State – Status – Statue – Stasis – Static
- Station – Stage – Steer – Stow – Stem – Stead – Stud – Stool – Stauch
 - ✦ Distant – Distance – Destination – Obstacle – Obstinate
 - ✦ Constant – Circumstance
 - ✦ Instant – Instance – Instantaneous
 - ✦ Estate – Ecstasy – Extant
 - ✦ Substance – Insubstantial – Unsubstantiated
 - ✦ Paki**stan**, Afghani**stan**, etc.

- **Sistere (L)** - To Place

- Consist – Insist – Persist – Assist – Resist – Subsist – Exist – Desist
 - Consistency – Consistent – Consistence – Inconsistent
 - Insist**ent** – Insist**ence** * Persist**ent** – Persist**ence** * Assist**ant** - Assist**ance**
 - Subsistence – Substitute – Superstition – Superstitious
 - Restitution – Constitution – Institute – Prostitution
 - Destitute

Less Obvious Derivations

- Rest – Restore (re) – Cost (com) – Post (pro) – Press (pre) – System (sys) – Solstice – Contrast

CUR = TO RUN



KERS (PIE) – *Khouros* (GK) – *Correre* (L)

- Currently – Current – Undercurrent – AC/DC
- Currency – Courier – Excursion
- Cursor – Cursory – Precursor - Cursive
- Recur – Occur – Reoccur
- Concur – Incur
- Course – Discourse – Intercourse – Curriculum – Corridor
 - Succor (sub) = help
 - Car – Carriage – Chariot
 - Horse > *hros* > *horskr* > *kurs*
- **Similar but Different**
 - Curve and Curb - to bend, turn
 - Cure – to care for
 - ✦ Secure, Procure, Curate, Curious, Manicure, Accurate, etc.

TEND = To Offer, Stretch Out, Hand Over



TNU (PIE) - *Tonos* (G) - *Tendre* (Latin) – *þynne* (OE)

- THE SUFFIX – **TAIN**: attain, contain, detain, entertain, maintain, obtain, pertain, retain, sustain
- Tender – Bartender – Tenderloin – Tenderize(r)
- Thin – Tendril – Tendon – Tendinitis
- Tense – Tension – Tend – Tendency
- Tenant – Tenement – Temple – Tenet
- Attend – Attendant * Contend – Contender
- Extend – Extender * Pretend – Pretender (LF) Portend – Distend - Subtend
- Intend – Intent – Intense – Intended – Intention
Superintendent – Intensify – Unintended
- Extenuate – Tenuous – Ostensible
- Double entendre – Tennis
- Tone – “a stretched string”, and thus: Tune – Tonal – Tonic
Intone – Overtone – Undertone – Baritone – Monotone – Monotony – Catatonic

FER = TO BEAR, CARRY, TO PLACE



PER (PIE) - *Ferju* (ON) – *Ferian* (OE)
 ↘ *Ferre* (L) – *Port* (L)

- Ferry – Fertile – Proliferation – Aquifer – Conifer
- Differ – Difference – Differentiate – Differential – Differentiation
- Defer – Deference * Prefer – Preference * Refer – Reference
- Confer – Conference * Infer – Inference
- (N&V) Transfer – Offer
- Suffer – Lucifer – Fuhrer
- Circumference – Vociferous – Somniferous – Odoriferous
- (LF) Efferent – Pestiferous – Splendiferous – Fossiliferous
- **Related** to FARE (N&V) – *fær* (OE) = Journey, Road, Passage
 Warfare – Welfare - Seafarer – Thoroughfare
- **Past Participle** of *ferre* (L) is *latus* = Bring, Borne, Carried
 Collate – Elate– Legislator – Ablative – Oblate

PLY = TO FOLD, BEND, TWIST, LAY



PLEK (PIE) – Plectere/Plexus/Plicare (L) – Ploi (OF) – Pli (MF)

- Ply – Plywood – **Plight** – **Pliable** – **Pliers** – **Plait** – **Pleat**
- **Apply** – Application – Applicant – Applicable – Appliance
- **Explicit** – Explication – Explicable
- **Imply** – Implication – Implicit
- Duplicate – Triplicate – Quadruplicate (2 noun forms: *-tion* + **NV stress shift**)
- **Multiply** – Multiplication
- **Complicate** – Complication * **Replicate** – Replication
- **Reply**

PAST PARTICIPLE FORMS

- **Display**
- **Ploy** – Deploy – Deployment – Redeploy
- Employ – Employment – Employee – Employer – Unemployed – Unemployment
- **Exploit** – Exploitation
- **Complex** – Simplex – Multiplex – Duplex – Triplex – Googolplex – Solar plexus

DUCE / DUCT = TO LEAD, TO BRING



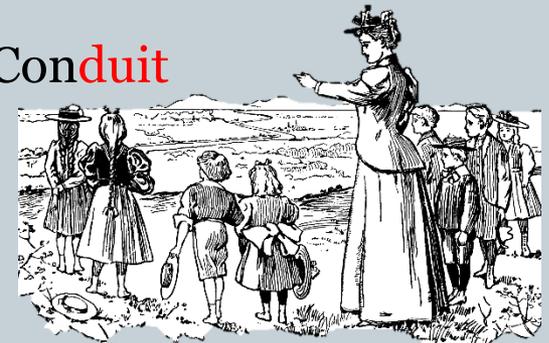
DEUK (PIE) – *Teon/Togian* (OE) – *Ducere* (L) – *Duc/Duit* (OF)

Duct form from *duc* “lead” + *tus* “past” = “led past”



- Duct – Ductile – Aqueduct – Oviduct
- Dock – Douche – Duke – Duchy – Duchess – Ducal
- Abduct – Adduce – Deduce – Induce – Introduce – Traduce
- Prodúce – Próduce – Production
- Condúct – Cónduct – Conductor – Conduction – Conduit
- Subdue – Subduct – Subduction
- Circumduct – Circumduction
- Transducer ≈ Transductor
- Educe – Education/Educing
- Educate – Educator – Education – Re-educate – Uneducated

to
lead
forth



From Proto-Germanic and Old English:

- Tow – Tie – Tug – Team – Taut – Teem

SPIRE = TO BREATH, TO BLOW



SPEIS (PIE) – Spirare/Spiritus (L)

- Spirit – Spirited – Spiritual – Spiritualist
Free-spirited – Mean-spirited
- **A**spire – Aspirant – Aspiration
- **C**onspire – Conspirator – Conspiracy – Conspiratorial
- **D**ispirit – Dispirited – Dispiriting
- **E**xpire – **P**erspire – **R**espire – **S**uspire – **T**ranspire
Expiration – Perspiration – Respiration – Suspiration – Transpiration
- **I**nspire – Inspired – **U**ninspired – Inspiration
- Spirometer – Spiracle – Spirant – Sprite

CEDERE – TO GO, WITHDRAW, YIELD



KED (PIE) – Cedere (L)

- Cede – Cease – Decease – Ancestor
- **Pre**cede – Precedent – Predecessor (**pre** = before)
- **Re**cede – Recess – Recession (**re** = back)
- **Se**cede – Secession (**se** = apart) **Su**cced – Success (**sub** = under)
 - **Pro**ceed – **Ante**cedent
 - **Con**cede – **Ac**cess
 - **Inter**cede - **In**cessant
 - **Ex**cess - **Ex**ceed
- **N**ecessary – “to **not** yield”
- **Ab**scess – “**grow away from**” (**LF**) **Ac**cede – **Ante**cede - **C**ession
- **False Friend**: *Supersede* (sit on top of) sometimes spelled *Supercede* .

-CIDE



Latin “Cidium” for Killing

PARRACIDE – (killing of a close relative)

patricide – matricide – fratricide – sororicide
avunculicide (uncle) – nepoticide (nephew)
filicide – prolicide (children)
mariticide (husband) – uxoricide (wife)

HOMICIDE (killing of another person)

regicide (kings) – infanticide (infants)

SUICIDE (self) – **GENOCIDE** (entire group)

ECOCIDE (the natural world)

HERBICIDE – **FUNGICIDE** – **PESTICIDE**

And so many [more](#).

Important Roots



- **Vise** - “visere” – To Look At
 - Devise – Revise – Advise

- **Tract** – “tracter” – To Pull Together
 - Detract - Retract - Abstract – Contract – Extract

- **Herent** – “haerere” – To Stick
 - Adhere – Cohere – Inherent – Incoherent

Important Roots



- **THE CIRCLE**
 - Cycle - Circular,
 - Cf. **Cyc**lical and Circle
 - **Circum** –
 - ✦ Circumnavigate, circumvent, circumference, circumstance...
 - Bicycle – Motorcycle – Circus - Circuit
- **THE SIGN**
 - A gesture or motion that is **SIGN**ificant or re**MARK**able.
 - **Co**sign – Consign – Resign – Design – Ensign
 - **Sign**age – Signal - Signify

Disambiguation & False Friends



- Perspective – The way you see
 - A three dimensional perspective.
- Perception – The ability to see (well)
 - This also includes simple awareness of something, an idea, or way of looking at things.
 - “That’s an inaccurate perception when you consider the facts.”
- Vision – Plan for the future
 - Vision can mean perception in the physical sense.
 - ✦ “He lost his vision in the war.”
 - Visionary is the most common sense.
 - ✦ “He has a vision for the company.”
- Scene – “scaena” – stage – cf. spectacle
 - Scenario, Scene, Scenic, Scenery

Close but Different



Restrict – Exclude – Eliminate

- Restrict – Strict – drawn together, tight, rigid
 - Straight (but not stretch), stringent, strain
- Exclude – “*cludere*” – To shut + Ex - Out
 - Include, preclude, conclude
- Eliminate – “*limin*” – Threshold + Ex – Thrust out
 - Preliminary
- Abandon – to put under another’s bond
 - band to another (or no one) / band = bond

Close but Different



Approach – Encroach

- Approach – “propiare” – property/self + a – draw near
 - Reproach
- Encroach – “croc” – hook + en – hook in
 - This word has a negative connotation as the action violates someone’s or something’s space.
- Roach – This is short for Spanish “*cucaracha*” and is something you DO NOT WANT to *approach* or *encroach*.