

The Word Within the Word • Inventions #31

Neologist's Lexicon

Use the stems in this list to create a new word (neologism). Give the word, the pronunciation, the part of speech, the etymology, and the definition(s). Keep a record of the neologisms you create from list to list. Here are some examples:

monoscient (mah NO shent) adj. [*mono* (one), *sci* (know)] 1. being fixed and obsessed with a single idea 2. so specialized as to know only one thing, while being ignorant of all else

lithovidesis (lith o vid EE sis) n. [*lith* (rock), *vid* (look)] 1. a look that turns one to stone, as the look of the Gorgon 2. the look of one whose name you have mispronounced

Sesquipedalian Theater

Using at least one word from this week's list in every sentence, write a small one-act play. If circumstances allow, it would be good to perform the sesquipedalian play in class. Having a witty prop is a good idea. Use a pseudonym, or *nom de plume*, if you like. Emphasis should be on creativity and fun; feel free to be silly or absurd. As an example:

Unidentified Flying Monoliths by Michael Skellig

Scene: A small group of people are walking in the park. One is pulling a stuffed animal on a leash. One is bouncing a basketball and never stops or looks up throughout the play. One is chewing gum animatedly and stares wide-eyed at the audience the whole time.

One: Look, in the imponderable sky! It is a bird, a plane, an unidentified flying monolith!
 Two: Monolith?? Oh no! I see, but I'm incredulous, but I see, but I'm incredulous!
 One: Be not nonplussed! Trust to the verification of your own eyes!
 Three (looking up, agape): Oh my omnibus mind, my neophyte eyes! Can this vision be unilateral, or does all the world see what I see?
 One and Two: *Vide, VIDE, VIDE!!* (They pronounce the word differently each time.)
 One: Oh hierarchy of truths! Oh benediction and postlude to nonplussed day! Oh omniscient visitors from afar! What interdictions have we broken, that you visit us??
 Two: Wait!
 One: Oh, my earthbound portliness! Oh, my . . .
 Two: Wait!
 One: Oh, OMNIBUS OMNISCIENT BENEDICTIONS AND INTERDICTIONS AND...
 Two: WAIT! Did you say "unidentified flying monolith"? That's no monolith! That's a monoPLANE, you neophyte! MONOPLANE! Ha!! What a malapropism!
 One: Monoplane? . . .
 One: Plane? . . .
 One: Malapropism? . . .
 All (muttering): Ooohh nooo . . .
 All stare blankly at audience.

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The Word Within the Word • Test #31

Define the stems:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. vid _____ | 11. omni _____ |
| 2. mono _____ | 12. lith _____ |
| 3. mal _____ | 13. bene _____ |
| 4. non _____ | 14. sci _____ |
| 5. neo _____ | 15. in _____ |
| 6. phyte _____ | 16. uni _____ |
| 7. post _____ | 17. pond _____ |
| 8. archy _____ | 18. port _____ |
| 9. inter _____ | 19. dict _____ |
| 10. cred _____ | 20. lat _____ |

Define the words:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 21. vide _____ | 28. covering many things _____ |
| 22. monolithic _____ | 29. difficult to ponder _____ |
| 23. malapropism _____ | 30. perplexed _____ |
| 24. portly _____ | 31. prohibition _____ |
| 25. postlude _____ | 32. ranking _____ |
| 26. benediction _____ | 33. not believing _____ |
| 27. omniscient _____ | 34. beginner _____ |

Write the word for each definition:

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