

The Word Within the Word • List #1

ante	<i>(before)</i>	antedate, antecedent, antebellum, anterior, ante meridiem, antepenult	<i>Latin</i>
anti	<i>(against)</i>	antiaircraft, antibody, anticlimax, anticline, antitoxin, antithesis	<i>Greek</i>
bi	<i>(two)</i>	bilateral, bicycle, binary, bimonthly, biped, bipolar, binocular, bicuspid	<i>Latin</i>
circum	<i>(around)</i>	circumnavigate, circumspect, circumvent, circumlocution, circus	<i>Latin</i>
com	<i>(together)</i>	combination, comfort, commensurate, common, complete, combo	<i>Latin</i>
con	<i>(together)</i>	contract, confidence, confine, confederate, conjunction, contact	<i>Latin</i>
de	<i>(down)</i>	deposit, descent, despicable, denounce, deduct, demolish, decrepit, deplete	<i>Latin</i>
dis	<i>(away)</i>	distract, distort, dispute, dissonant, disperse, dismiss, dissuade, disprove	<i>Latin</i>
equi	<i>(equal)</i>	equitable, equilateral, equivocate, equinox, equation, equilibrium	<i>Latin</i>
extra	<i>(beyond)</i>	extraterrestrial, extraordinary, extravagant, extrovert, extramural	<i>Latin</i>
inter	<i>(between)</i>	international, interdepartmental, interstellar, interject, interlude	<i>Latin</i>
intra	<i>(within)</i>	intracellular, intravenous, intracranial, intrastate, intrauterine	<i>Latin</i>
intro	<i>(into)</i>	introduce, introspective, introvert, introject, introrse, intromission	<i>Latin</i>
mal	<i>(bad)</i>	malevolent, malcontent, malicious, malign, malady, malapropism, malonym	<i>Latin</i>
mis	<i>(bad)</i>	misfit, mistake, misfortune, misfire, misdeed, misguided	<i>Germanic</i>
non	<i>(not)</i>	nonstop, nonprofit, nonconformity, nonplussed, nonchalant	<i>Latin</i>
post	<i>(after)</i>	postgraduate, posthumous, postscript, posterity, posterior, postlude	<i>Latin</i>
pre	<i>(before)</i>	prelude, preposition, premonition, premature, predict, predecessor	<i>Latin</i>
semi	<i>(half)</i>	semitone, semiaquatic, semicircle, semiweekly, semiannual, semiformal	<i>Latin</i>
sub	<i>(under)</i>	subterranean, subtract, subordinate, submarine, subterfuge, substantial	<i>Latin</i>
super	<i>(over)</i>	supervise, superb, superior, superfluous, supercilious, supernatural	<i>Latin</i>
syn	<i>(together)</i>	synthetic, synchronize, syndrome, synonym, synopsis, syntax	<i>Greek</i>
sym	<i>(together)</i>	sympathy, symbiosis, symbol, symmetry, symphony, symposium	<i>Greek</i>
tri	<i>(three)</i>	tricycle, triangle, triceps, triad, trichotomy, triceratops, trivia, triologue	<i>Greek</i>
un	<i>(not)</i>	unfit, unequal, undone, unequivocal, unearned, unconventional, untenable	<i>Old English</i>

de

down • away • from

The Latin stem **de**, which we define as meaning *down*, actually can have a wide variety of meanings, and is a relative of the stem **dis**. Though **de** often means down, it can mean *away, off, from, entirely, or even undo*. Here are some of the interesting words that contain **de** in its various shades of meaning:

- debacle:** an overwhelming defeat. Alexander's attack was a debacle for Darius.
- debark:** to get off of a ship or airplane. They debarked immediately.
- debauch:** to lead astray morally. Dorian's life was increasingly debauched.
- debris:** rubble or fragments. The barbarians lived in the debris of Rome.
- decamp:** to depart suddenly or secretly. In the night, the enemy had decamped.
- declivity:** a downward slope. The horses stumbled down the declivity.
- defalcate:** to embezzle funds. He had defalcated the funds and vanished.
- defeasible:** that can be undone or voided. The provision proved to be defeasible.
- defoliate:** to strip of leaves. The chemical defoliated most of the jungle.
- deliquesce:** to melt down. In the movie, the villain's face deliquesced in the blast.
- demure:** modest or affectedly modest. Her demure pretensions fooled no one.
- denizen:** an inhabitant. The denizens of the forest could be heard in the night.
- depravity:** wickedness. The depravity of the criminal was beyond belief.
- depredation:** plundering. Ghengis Kahn's depredations terrified the villages.
- deracinate:** to pull up by the roots. He weeded with deracinating frenzy.
- deride:** to ridicule. He mercilessly derided the new student.
- derogate:** to detract. Why derogate another's reputation?
- desecrate:** to profane what is sacred. Vandals had desecrated the shrine.
- desiccate:** to dry completely. The desiccated apples fell out of the package.
- desideratum:** something considered essential. Our primary desideratum was cost.
- desperado:** an outlaw. The cove was a haven for desperadoes and escapees.