

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #1

**Nimiety**\ni-MAHY-i-tee\ noun

### Definition

1. Excess; overabundance.
2. An instance of this.

### Example

The students seem to have a nimiety of electronic devices that they feel they cannot live without.

### Origin

*Nimiety* entered English in the mid-1500s from the Late Latin *nimietas*, which in turn is based on *nimius* meaning “too much.”

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #2

**Cupidity**\kyoo-PID-i-tee\ noun

### Definition

1. Eager or excessive desire, especially to possess something; greed; avarice.

### Example

The students' cupidity in owning the new iPad pro is being felt throughout the campus.

### Origin

*Cupidity* can be traced to the Latin word *cupidus* meaning "eager, desirous" from the Latin verb *cupere* "to desire."

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #3

**Sagacity** \suh-GAS-i-tee\ noun

### Definition

1. Acuteness of mental discernment and soundness of judgment.

### Example

It is with sagacity the students must choose their classes for each semester.

### Origin

*Sagacity* can be traced to the Latin *sagacitas* meaning “wisdom.” It entered English in the mid-1500s.

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #4

**Abstemious**\ab-STEE-mee-uh s\ adjective

### Definition

1. Sparing or moderate in eating and drinking; temperate in diet.
2. Characterized by abstinence.

### Example

People who join groups such as Weight Watchers or Jenny Craig no longer have to partake in an abstemious diet.

### Origin

*Abstemious* derives from the Latin *temetum* meaning “intoxicating drink.” It entered English in the early 1600s.

**Bissextus**\bi-SEKS-tuh s\ noun

### Definition

1. February 29<sup>th</sup>; the extra day added to the Julian calendar every fourth year (except those evenly divisible by 400) to compensate for the approximately six hours a year by which the common year of 365 days falls short of the solar year.

### Example

Bissextus, or a leap year, only comes along every four years.

### Origin

*Bissextus* comes from the Latin term *bissextus dies* meaning “intercalary day.” It was so called because the 6<sup>th</sup> day before the Calends of March (February 24<sup>th</sup>) appeared twice every leap year.

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #6

**Wordmonger**\WURD-mong-ger\ noun

### Definition

1. A writer or speaker who uses words pretentiously or with careless disregard for meaning.

### Example

The lecturer was a blatant wordmonger.

### Origin

*Wordmonger* entered English in the late 1500s. The word *monger* means “a dealer in or trader of a commodity” or “a person who is involved with something in a petty or contemptible way” and it is frequently used in combination, as in the terms *fishmonger* or *gossipmonger*.

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #7

**Renascent**\ri-NEY-suh nt\ adjective

### Definition

1. Being reborn; springing again into being or vigor.

### Example

The renascent flowers are beginning to bloom from the ground.

### Origin

*Renascent*, like its linguistic cousin *renaissance*, can be traced to the Latin *nasci* meaning “to be born.” It entered English in the mid-1600s.

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #8

**Cognomen** \kɒg-NOH-muh n\ noun

### Definition

1. Any name, especially a nickname.
2. A surname.

### Example

The notorious gangster Charles Luciano was also known by the cognomen Lucky.

### Origin

*Cognomen* derives from the Latin *nomen* meaning “name.” It entered English in the early 1800s.



Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #10

**Fuliginous**\fyoo-LIJ-uh-nuh s\ adjective

### Definition

1. Sooty; smoky.
2. Of the color of soot, as dark gray, dull brown, black, etc.

### Example

There was a fuliginous tone to the air surrounding New York City.

### Origin

*Fuliginous* can be traced to the Latin *fuliginosus* meaning “full of soot,” with *fuligo*, “soot,” as its root. It entered English in the mid-1500s.

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #11

**Somaticize**\suh-MAT-uh-sahyz\ verb

### Definition

1. In psychiatry: to convert (anxiety) into physical symptoms.

### Example

During final exams, some students somaticize their test anxiety.

### Origin

*Somaticize* is the verb form of *somatic*, which stems from the Greek *somatikos*, “of, pertaining to the body.” Ultimately, both terms derive from the Greek *soma* meaning “body.”

Weekly Word of Wisdom: Spring 2016 #13

**Jeremiad** \jer-uh-MAHY-uh d\ noun

### Definition

1. A prolonged lamentation or mournful complaint.

### Example

It is common to hear a jeremiad from a number of students during and before final exam week.

### Origin

The term *jeremiad* entered English in the late 1700s and has biblical roots. It references the Lamentations of Jeremiah from the Old Testament.