

■ A peninsula (*paene*, "almost," + *insula*) is a piece of land that extends into water, but is not completely surrounded by water like an island is.

## INSUL

Latin INSULA, "island"

**INSULAR** (in' sə lər) *adj.* Limited in knowledge or perspective  
Cal's *insular* ideas about politics came from his sheltered upbringing and lack of travel outside his hometown.  
*syn:* restricted *ant:* broad-minded

**INSULATE** (in' sə lāt) *v.* To protect from outside influence  
The mayor believed that his status in the community would *insulate* him against the negative attention other politicians had been given.

## IDIO

Greek IDIOS, "single, peculiar, personal"

**IDIOSYNCRASY** (id ē ō sin' krə sē) *n.* A peculiar quality; a quirk  
G. *idios* + *syn*, "together," + *krasis*, "mixture" = *one's personal mixture (of habits)*  
The general's only *idiosyncrasy* was his insistence that all his soldiers wear blue uniforms.  
*syn:* habit

**IDIOM** (id' ē əm) *n.* Speech or phrase specific to a particular language or group of people

Because I was unfamiliar with the *idiom* that my Spanish visitor used, I could not follow the rest of what he said.

*syn:* dialect

## NUM

Latin NUMERARE, NUMERATUM, "to count"

**ENUMERATE** (ē nōōm' ər āt) *v.* To list separately; to count off  
Latin *e*, "out," + *numeratum* = *count out*

Joanna was asked by her doctor to *enumerate* the symptoms that had been bothering her.

*syn:* tally; itemize

**INNUMERABLE** (i nōōm' ər ə bəl) *adj.* So plentiful as to be uncountable  
L. *in*, "not," + *numeratum* = *not able to be counted*

When viewing the *innumerable* stars that dot the midnight sky, I find it impossible not to wonder how big the universe really is.

*syn:* countless

*ant:* few

**PLUS, PLUR**

Latin PLUS, PLURIS, "many"

**NONPLUSSED** (non plust') *adj.* Baffled; confusedL. non, "no," + plus, "more" = *no more*The Vice Principal, looking *nonplussed*, asked why there were no students in any of the classrooms.

syn: dumbfounded

ant: clear

**SURPLUS** (sŭr' plus) *n.* Amount beyond what is necessaryL. super, "over," + plus = *over many*Zoe was able to get cantaloupe at a good price because the store had a huge *surplus* of melons.

syn: excess

ant: shortage

**PLURALITY** (plōō ral' ə tē) *n.* Greater part; majorityNoting that a candidate needed a *plurality* of votes to win the election, the announcer prepared to read the results.

ant: minority

**SING**

Latin SINGULUS, "single"

**SINGLE** (sing' əl) *v.* To isolate; to chooseDonna did not want to be *singled* out by the harsh critic for her performance in the play.

syn: screen

**SINGULAR** (sing' yə lər) *adj.* Separated from others; uniqueBo was known around town for his rather *singular* habit of walking to school on his hands.

syn: rare; exceptional

ant: usual; ordinary



The *SINGER'S SINGULAR* voice was like nothing we had ever heard.

■ Someone who is non-plussed is so confused that he or she literally can think of nothing more to say or do.