

Session 2

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Every word in the English language has a history -- and these ten are no exception. In this section you will learn a good deal more about the words you have been working with; in addition, you will **make excursions** into many other words allied either in meaning, form, or history to our basic ten.

1. the ego

(L) *ego*, I

I is the greatest concern in the *egoist's* mind, the most overused word in the *egotist's* vocabulary.

Ego itself has been taken over from Latin as an important English word and is commonly used to denote one's concept of oneself.

If you are an *egocentric*, you consider yourself the *center* of the universe -- you are an extreme form of the *egoist*.

And if you are an *egomaniac*, you carry *egoism* to such an extreme that your needs, desires, and interests have become a **morbid obsession**, a *mania*.

The *egoist* or *egotist* is obnoxious, the *egocentric* is intolerable, and the *egomaniac* is dangerous and slightly mad.

egocentric: both noun and adj

What an *egocentric* her new roommate is!

He is the most *egocentric* person I have ever met!

egomaniacal

2. others

(L) *alter*, other

Altruism, the philosophy practiced by *altruists*.

Altruistic actions look toward the **benefit of others**.

If you *alternate*, you skip one and take the *other*, so to speak, as when you play golf on *alternate* Saturdays.

An *alternate* in a debate, contest, or convention is the *other* person who will take over if the original choice is unable to attend. And if you have no *alternative*, you have no *other* choice.

Definition

with first one thing, then another thing, and then the first thing again

轮流, 交替的

a person or thing that can take the place of another
替代者

An *altercation* is a verbal dispute.

When you have an *altercation* with someone, you have a violent disagreement, a "fight" with words. And why?

Because you have *other* ideas, plans, or opinions than those of the person on the *other* side of the argument.

Altercation is stronger than *quarrel* or *dispute* -- the sentiment is more heated, the disagreement is likely to be angry or even hot-tempered, there may be recourse, if the disputants are human, to profanity or obscenity.

Alter ego

other + I

generally refers to someone with whom you are so close that you do the same things, think alike, react similarly, and are, in temperament, almost mirror images of each other.

Any such friends is your *other I*, your *other self*, your *alter ego*.

you see how easy it is to understand the meanings of these words once you realize that they all come from the same source.

sentiment

a thought, opinion, or idea based on a feeling about a situation, or a way of thinking about something

观点; 意见; 看法; 情绪

temper

the tendency to become angry very quickly

脾气; 易怒

recourse

using something or someone as a way of getting help, especially in a difficult or dangerous situation

(尤指在艰难或危险的情况下) 依靠, 依赖, 求助

profanity

an offensive or obscene word or phrase

亵渎的语言; 下流话

obscene

offensive, rude, or shocking, usually because of being too obviously related to sex or showing sex

下流的; 粗俗的

temperament

the part of your character that affects your moods and the way you behave

气质; 性情; 性格