

ENGLISH WORDS FROM GREEK GODS

WORD	MEANING	FROM
atlas	a book of maps	Atlas, Titan who held the sky on his shoulders
cereal	wheat, oats, corn	Ceres, goddess of agriculture
cloth	fabric formed by weaving	Clotho, the Fate that spun the thread of life
chronology	list of events in time	Cronos, god of time
cornucopia	horn of plenty	Cornucopia
echo	repetition of a sound	Echo, who could only repeat other's words
fortune	chance happening or luck	Fortuna, goddess of luck
hypnosis	sleeplike state	Hypnos, god of sleep
jovial	good cheer	Jove – alternate name of Jupiter
junoesque	stately bearing	Juno – stately, majestic goddess
martial	relating to war	Mars, god of war
mercurial	quick and changeable	Mercury, messenger god
Midas touch	ability to make money	Midas
mnemonics	system to improve memory	Mnemosyne, goddess of memory
music	arrangement of sounds of harmony	the Muses
narcissism	excessive love of oneself	Narcissus
panic	sudden terror	Pan
plutocracy	government run by the wealthy	Pluto, god of wealth
psychology	science of mental behavior	Psyche
somnambulism	to act while asleep	Somnus, god of sleep
stentorian	extremely loud	Stentor, the herald
tantalize	keeping in sight but out of reach	Tantalus
terpsichorean	relating to dancing	Terpsichore
typhoon	tropical cyclone	Typhon
venerate	regard with reverence	Venus
vestal	chaste, pure	Vesta
volcano	opening in earth's crust that ejects lava	Vulcan
zephyr	gentle west wind	Zephyrus