Familiar Greek Words

τοξικόν

toxikon (poison)

toxic, toxicology

ὕπέρ

huper (above, super-)

hyperactive, hyperbole

αὐτοψία

autopsia

from *autoptēs* ‘eyewitness’, from *autos* ‘self’ + *optos* ‘seen’)

διάκονος

diakonos (servant)

deacon

ἕλιξ

helix (spiral ornament)

helicopter

ναυτικός

nautikos (sailor, ship)

aeronautics, astronaut, nautical

γλωσσίς

glōssis (tongue)

polyglot

Ἀκαδημία

Akadēmia

gymnasium near Athens where Plato and his successors taught, school of philosophy founded by Plato

ψεῦδος

pseudos (false, a falsity); pseudonym, pseudoscience

αὐστηρός

austēros (harsh)

austerity

ἦθος

ēthos (moral)

ethics

νάνος

nanos (dwarf)

nanometry, nanosecond, nanotechnology

νέκταρ

nektar (drink of the gods)

nectar

ἀνταρκτικός

antarktikos (Antarctic)

σύμβολον

sumbolon (symbol)

symbolic, symbolism

δίλημμα

dilēmma (di- ‘twice’ + lēmma ‘premise’)

πρό

pro (before)

prologue

ἄσθμα

asthma

νέος

neos (new, young)

neologism, neophyte

ἄρκτος

arktos (bear, Ursa Major, pole star)

ἀντίδοτον

antidoton (antidote)

ἀνά

ana (again)

σοφία

sophia (knowledge, wisdom)

philosophy

θησαυρός

thēsauros (storehouse, treasure)

thesaurus, treasure

ἀέριος

aerios (aerial)

ἀπολογία

apologia (apology)

apo, ‘away’ + -logia, denoting a subject of study or interest (e.g. psychology)

ὥρα

hōra (season, hour)

horology, horoscope

βιβλίον

biblion (book)

bibliography, bibliomania, Bible

νίκη

nikē (victory)

ζῷον

zōon (animal)

zoology

ἀντί

anti (opposite)

ἔμφασις

emphasis

ἀμνησία

amnēsia

ἀνατομία

anatomia

Ἀσία

Asia

βακτήριον

bactērion (staff, cane)

τῆλε

tēle (afar, far off)

telegram, telephone, television

ἀήρ

aēr (air, as in aerodynamics)

τόπος

topos (place)

dystopia, topology, utopia

ἀμφίβιος

amphibios

νεῦρον

neuron (nerve, sinew)

neurology

χαρακτήρ

kharaktēr (character)

θρόνος

thronos (an elevated seat)

throne

βλάσφημος

blasphēmos (evil-speaking)

blaspheme

κλῖμαξ

klimax (ladder)

climax

βάρος

baros (weight)

barometer, millibar

κίνημα

kinēma (movement)

cinema, cineamatic

βαπτίζω

baptizō (dip, immerse)

baptize

σύστημα

sustēma (system)

systematic

βορέας

boreas (north)

hyperborean, an inhabitant of the extreme north

μέθοδος

methodos (following after, pursuit, method, system)

method, methodical, Methodist

θέατρον

theatron (a place for viewing, especially a theatre)

ἀνάθεμα

anathema (accursed)

ἀστήρ

astēr (star)

asteroid

μακρός

makros (long)

macrobiotic, macroeconomics

θέσις

thesis (placing, a proposition)

χάος

khaos (vast chasm, void)

chaos, chaotic, gas (with Dutch g representing Greek kh)

τρόπαιον

tropaion (monument of an enemy’s defeat)

trophy

ἀνάλογος

analogos (proportionate)

ἀναλφάβητος

analphabētos (uneducated)

ἄλφα

alpha

Ἄτλας

Atlas

ἐνέργεια

energeia (energy)

κρυπτός

kruptos (hidden)

ἐλαστικός

elastikos (elastic)

ἀναχρονισμός

anakhronismos (wrong time reference)

anachronism

μαθηματικός

mathēmatikos (fond of learning)

mathematical, polymath

ἄνθρωπος

anthrōpos (human being)

ἄνθραξ

anthrax

στροφή

strophē (turning)

catastrophe (from cata-, ‘down’)

δαίμων

daimōn (deity, genius)

demon

ἀσθένεια

astheneia (weakness)

asthenia

ἵππος

hippos (horse)

hippodrome, hippopotamus

γῆρας

gēras (old age)

geriatric

θεραπεία

therapeia (healing)

therapeutics

διάβολος

diabolos (accuser, slanderer)

devil, diabolic

φωνή

phōnē (voice)

phoneme, phonetic, phonograph, telephone

φαντασία

phantasia (imagination)

fantasy, fantastic, fantasia

γένεσις

genesis (birth)

gene, genetic

ἀρθρίτις

arthritis (inflammation of the joint; *arthron* = joint)

ἀνάμνησις

anamnēsis (recollection)

βίος

bios (life)

biology

ἔλλειψις

elleipsis (ellipse, from elleipein, ‘leave out’)

ellipsis

ἀσπάραγος

asparagos

ἀναισθησία

anaisthēsia (anaesthesia)

Ἀφροδίτη

Aphroditē (literally ‘foam-born’, from *aphros* ‘foam’)

aphrodisiac

γάμμα

gamma

gamut (from *gamma ut*)

τροπικός

tropikos (of the turning of the sun)

tropical, tropics

τοπικός

topikos (of or pertaining to τόπος a place)

topic, topical

μικρός

mikros (small)

micron, microscope

ἱστορία

historia (history)

γυνή

gunē (woman)

gynecology, misogynist

δέλτα

delta

θερμός

thermos (hot)

hypothermia, thermal

λόγος

logos (thought, word)

pathology (from *pathos*, ‘suffering, disease’), analogy, geology, catalogue

Ἀμαζών

Amazōn

φοβία

phobia (irrational fear, fear)

πρόγραμμα

programma (proclamation, agenda)

programmer, program

βάρβαρος

barbaros (stranger)

barbarian

ἥλιος

helios (sun)

helium, heliotropism

ἄτομος

atomos (indivisible)

atomic

αὐθεντικός

authentikos (original)

authenticity

μανία

mania (madness, passion, frenzy)

manic

κόσμος

kosmos (order, the universe, ornament)

cosmetic, cosmology, cosmic, cosmopolitan