

scrutinize |_skro_tn_zl

verb [trans.]

examine or inspect closely and thoroughly : *customers were warned to scrutinize the small print.*

DERIVATIVES

scrutinization |_skro_tn-i_z_ sh _nl noun

scrutinizer noun

sedentary |_sedn_ter_l

adjective

(of a person) tending to spend much time seated; somewhat inactive.

- (of work or a way of life) characterized by much sitting and little physical exercise.
- (of a position) sitting; seated.
- Zoology & Anthropology inhabiting the same locality throughout life; not migratory or nomadic.
- Zoology (of an animal) sessile.

DERIVATIVES

sedentarily |_te()r_l_l adverb

sedentariness noun

ORIGIN late 16th cent.(in the sense [not migratory]): from French *sédentaire* or Latin *sedentarius*, from *sedere* ‘sit.’

soporific |_säp__rifikl

adjective

tending to induce drowsiness or sleep : *the motion of the train had a somewhat soporific effect.*

- sleepy or drowsy : *some medicine made her soporific.*
- tediously boring or monotonous : *a libel trial is in large parts intensely soporific.*

noun

a drug or other agent of this kind.

DERIVATIVES

soporifically | -ik() | _ | adverb

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *sopor* ‘*sleep*’ + **-ific** .

spontaneous | spän_t_n__sl

adjective

performed or occurring as a result of a sudden inner impulse or inclination and without premeditation or external stimulus : *the audience broke into spontaneous applause* | *a spontaneous display of affection*.

- (of a person) having an open, natural, and uninhibited manner.
- (of a process or event) occurring without apparent external cause : *spontaneous miscarriages*.
- archaic (of a plant) growing naturally and without being tended or cultivated.
- Biology (of movement or activity in an organism) instinctive or involuntary : *the spontaneous mechanical activity of circular smooth muscle*.

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spontaneity | _spänt__n_it_ ; -_n_- | noun

spontaneously adverb

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *spontaneus* (from (*sua*) *sponte* ‘*of (one's) own accord*’) + **-ous** .

squander | _skwänd_rl

verb [trans.]

waste (something, esp. money or time) in a reckless and foolish manner : *entrepreneurs squander their profits on expensive cars*.

- allow (an opportunity) to pass or be lost : *the team squandered several good scoring chances*.

DERIVATIVES

squanderer noun

ORIGIN late 16th cent.: of unknown origin.