

## Words beginning with the letters I, J, & K

**ichthyarchy** The domain or world of fishes. An **ichthyoid** animal, like a whale or dolphin, looks like a fish. The typical actions, shapes and behaviour of real fishes are also **ichthyoidal**, another word for which is *piscine*. **ichthyolatry** The worship of fish. The most striking **ichthyolatrous** practices are found in the worship of the fish god Dagon. Students often refer to Dagon's general fish-like habit and shape as **ichthyomorphic**.

**idiomorphic** A term that describes a mineral as taking on its very own, special appearance; as showing a pattern and structure characteristic of its own kind. In **idiomorphism** a crystal has a typical form, unmodified by outside influences.

**imbricativa, imbricata** (Imbricated) aestivation and vernation – when they overlap each other parallelly at the margins, without any involution. This is the true meaning of the term. De Candolle applies it in a different sense. See the flower petals of the genus *Hermannia*. **imbrication** The pattern formed by overlapping roof-tiles. To **imbricate** is to make a pattern of overlaps as that of tiles that keep out the rain. Scales on a fish, or the petals of a flower are often **imbricated**. In Latin an *imbrex* is a 'rain tile'. **imbricatus** Arrangement, botanical Latin. (Imbricated): when parts lie over each other in regular order, like tiles upon the roof of a house. (interfold, interlaced)

impale, impalement

**imparipinnatus** (Pinnate with an odd one); When the petiole is terminated by a single leaflet or tendril. If there is a tendril, as in the pea, it is called *cirrhosus*.

impassability, impassable, impasse

impediment

impenetrability, impenetrable

imperforate, imperforation

impermeability, impermeable

impervious, imperviousness

impress, impression

imprint

**inaequilaterus** (Unequal-sided: the same as unequal); **inaequalis** (p 317 – Botanical Latin) Unequal – when the two sides of a figure are not symmetrical (inequal, inequality)

**incanus** (Hoary): Covered with very short dense hairs, placed so closely as to give an appearance of whiteness to the surface from which they grow; as the leaf of *Mathiola incana*.

**incisiform** Having the form of an incisor tooth, especially of that of a mouse or rat. In Latin an *incisor* is literally a 'cutter' and *incidere* is 'to cut'. Many animals and fishes use their **incisiform** teeth to shred food to pieces. (incise, incised, incision, incisor); **incissus** Cut – regularly divided by deep incisions.

**inclinatus, declinatus** Direction, botanical Latin. (Inclining): the same as reclining, but in a greater degree.

**incrassate** Having a thick or swollen form. One **incrassates** a liquid by stirring it or leaving it to evaporate in part. An **incrassation** or thickening of living parts occurs either naturally or as the result of disease. In Latin *crassus* is thick.

incurvation, incurvature, incurve, incurved, incurving, incurvity, incurvuous

**incuse** To impress by striking or stamping, as the information on a coin or medal. An **incuse** is also the stamped impression or figure itself. In Latin *incudere* is ‘to forge with a hammer’, or ‘to work on the anvil’, which is an *incus*.

indent, indentation, indented, indentation, indenture

**indirecte venosus**: in a leaf – when the lateral veins are combined with the margin and emit other little veins. (indirect, indirectly)

**induplicativa** (Induplicate) In aestivation and vernation – having the margins bent abruptly inwards, and the external face of these edges applied to to each other without any twisting; as the flowers of some species of Clematis.

**inermis** (Unarmed): destitute of any kind of spines or prickles.

infarct, infarcted, infarction

**inflatus** Bladdery, thin, membranous, slightly transparent, swelling equally as if inflated by air.

**inflexus, curvus, introflexus, introcurvus, infractus** - Direction, botanical Latin. (Inflexed) Suddenly bent inwards.

infold, infolding, infoldment

**infula** A thin, twisted lock of hair on the forehead. For many ancient Roman priests and religious devotees an **infula** was compulsory. Today the Bishop has two **infulae** in the form of two small ribbons hanging from his mitre.

**infundibular, infundibuliform** Shaped like a funnel. The morning glory flower is somewhat **infundibular**. Scientists still use the Latin word *fundibulum* for a funnel, or something one pours through, from *fundere* ‘to pour’.

inglenook

**inglobate** An adjective describing substances like glass, rubber and rock as having been formed into a somewhat rounded or bulging mass or into a globe. The tubers of plants like the dahlias and daffodils are mostly **inglobated**.

inguen

inguin(o)-

**innatus** Insertion, botanical Latin. (Innate): adhering to the apex of a thing.

**integerrimus** Quite entire; perfectly free from division of the margin; **integer** (Entire) Properly speaking, this means having no kind of marginal division; but sometimes it has been used to indicate not pinnatifid, and also nearly destitute of marginal division.

**interlapidate** A verb expressing the action of putting things together snugly to form an overall unit, with reference to the way stones are built and cemented tightly into a wall. In Latin *inter* is ‘between’ and *lapidem* - a ‘stone’.

**interpolate** To fold up a sheet of material or paper into itself, or into other folded ones. In the Japanese art of origami the complex **interplication** of one sheet of paper creates many interesting shapes. In Latin *plicare* is ‘to fold’. **interruptus** (interrupted): When any symmetrical arrangement is destroyed by local causes, as, for example, a spike is said to be interrupted when here and there the axis is unusually elongated, and not covered with flowers; a leaf is interruptedly pinnated when some of the pinnae are much smaller than the others, or wholly wanting; and so on.

**interrupte pinnatus** (Interruptedly pinnate): When the leaflets are alternately small and large.

**intersepiant** Of certain membranes, forming an **interseptum** which is a wall that divides cavities or that separates arteries. The *uvula* or ‘little tongue’ hanging at the back of the throat is such an **interseptum**. In Latin *sepire* is to ‘hedge in’.

intertwined

interval

intervale

interwoven

intorsion, intort

**intrados** An architectural term for the curve on the underside of an arch - the upper curve being the *extrados*. In Latin *intra* is ‘within’ and *dos*, or *dorsum*, the ‘back’. In classical buildings the **intrados** are built out of wedge-shaped stones.

**intricatus** Arrangement, botanical Latin. (entangled): When things are intermixed in such an irregular manner that they cannot be readily disentangled; as the hairs, roots, and branches of many plants.

**introrsus, anticus** Direction, botanical Latin. (Turned inwards): turned towards the axis to which it appertains.

intumescence

**inversus** Direction, botanical Latin (Inverted): having the apex of one thing in an opposite direction to that of another

**involutiva, involuta** (involute) In aestivation and vernalization – when the edges are rolled inwards spirally on each side; as the leaf of the apple. **involutus** Direction, botanical Latin. (Involute): Rolled inwards; **involution** (involute, involuted, involution, involutorial)

iron, ironbound

ironing board

**irregularis** Irregular, in which the symmetry is destroyed by some inequality of parts. A labiate corolla and the flowers of the horse chestnut are irregular. (irregularity, irregularly)

**iseikonia, iseiconia** A condition in which shapes and sizes appear identical to the eye in spite of the fact that they are different. One who has **iseikonic, iseiconic** vision can never build a puzzle. In Greek *isos* is ‘equal’ and *eikon* - an ‘image’.

**isocephaly, isokephaly** The tendency of Greek sculptors to compose their figures by setting all the heads at nearly the same level. The **isocephalic** effect creates a feeling of eye contact with the visitor. In Greek a *kephale* is a ‘head’.

**isodactylous** A word used by zoologists to describe certain birds as having the toes situated to the front of their feet shaped in the same manner as the ones at the back of their feet. An **isodactylous** foot is well adapted for clutching a perch.

**isodontous** A term used by marine zoologists to describe certain fishes, like the whales, as having all their teeth shaped alike. An **isognathous** fish has all its molar teeth shaped the same in both jaws. In Greek *odos* is ‘tooth’.

**isogon** A flat geometric shape or a series of straight lines formed by equal angles. In Greek *isogonios* is ‘equi-angular’. In biology an **isogonism** is the production of individuals that are sexually the same from different stocks.

**isopleure** Any shape that has identical sides. In **isopleural** body shapes the two sides of the body are the same - bilaterally symmetrical. The larger animals all have **isopleural** bodies, but micro-organisms can come in any odd shape.

**jaculable** Of certain missiles, fit to be thrown or darted. The discus and javelin are of a **jaculable** size and shape. Even a most **jaculable** object in the hands of a person not trained as a **jaculator**, won't travel far or effectively.

jag

jagged, jaggedly, jaggedness, jaggy

jam, jammed

jaw, jaws

**jessant** An heraldic term describing a shape or image as lying on top of another so that the bottom one sticks out a little. Two images together, like a flower on a branch are also **jessant**. In French *gesant* is 'lying', from the Latin *jacere*, 'to lie'.

jeweler's rouge

jog, joggle

joltiness, jolty

jowls

jugs

**julaceous, juliferous** A botanical term describing certain trees, like the willow and poplar, as bearing catkins. In Latin a *julus* is a catkin, which is a soft downy type of flowering mechanism on a tree. **Juliform** flowers look like catkins.

**jumelle** A word borrowed from the French and describing the occurrence of a pair, or of a coupling of two things. A **jumelle-**, or *gimmel* ring is formed of two loose bands, set separately but in conformity to each on the finger.

jut out, jutting

**katakana** The angular form of the **kana**, which is Japanese writing comprising of letter-characters that spell out the various syllables of words. **Kanji** is a Chinese form of the **kana**, but it uses picture-like lines instead of syllables.

**katamorphism** A change in the chemical composition of rocks near the surface of the earth. The rocks that have been **katamorphically** affected have a weaker or simpler chemical consistence as the same rocks deeper down.

**kavadi** An arched structure of branches carried on the shoulders by the Malayan Hindus as a sign of penance. On the **kavadi** are displayed flowers, fruit and peacock feathers and at the end of their walk they place it before the image of their god.

keen, keen-edged, keenness

kennel [Brit]

**keratoid** A mathematical term describing a cusp or point as having the shape of a horn or a beak. The **keratoid** is like a letter V of which both legs bend in the same direction. In general, **keratoid** shapes have the appearance of horns.

kerf

key, keyhole

kidney-shaped, kidneylike

**kinch** A noose or loop in a rope; a slip-knot. The **kinch** can be twisted in any form or shape as long as it provides for a solid grip in the rope. One usually **kinches** horses, but to **kinch** one's friends or enemies is to get a firm grip on them.

kink, kinked, kinky

**kirn baby** The clumsy effigy of a human figure, made from stalks of the very last handful of corn to be harvested in a crop. **Kirn babies**, dressed up as a young women hang around the fire-place, but they originally formed part of the harvest-feast.

kisser [slang]

**kli-nocephalic, kli-nocephalous** An anthropologist's term describing certain tribes of people as having a saddle-shaped depression or flatness on the crown also referred to as *vertex* of their heads. In Greek a *kline* is a 'bed' or an 'incline'.

knee-shaped

knife pleat

knife-edge, knife-edged

knifelike

knit, knitted

knob, knobbed, knobbly, knobby, knoblike

knobs [slang]

knockers [slang]

knot, knothole, knotted, knotty

knur

knurl, knurled, knurly

**krobylos** A length hair, twisted into a roll or knot on the crown of the head. In Greek art the earlier draped figures of Venus have more simple hairstyles, but the later, undraped statues have are endowed with a prominent **krobylos**.

lens-shaped

lenticular  
lentiform.

lunar, lunate  
lunular  
luniform lunar rill

laced  
lacy  
lacelike

latticed  
lattice like

lancet arch

loop  
looplet

lasso

lemniscate

Lissajous figure.

labyrinthine

lumbriciform

low relief

lump

lacuna

lair

lancelike (spearlike)  
lanciform  
lanceolate  
lanceolar  
lance  
lancet

levelness level

lubricity lubricate smoothness

luster

leio-

liss(o)-

leiotrichous

lissotrichous

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**labile** Liable to slip or fall - an amateur stilt walker is especially **labile**. One can also be **labile** or liable to sin when severely tempted. An unstable chemical solution is subject to **lability** or change. In Latin *labi* is 'to fall', or 'slip'.

A labret is one form of body piercing. Taken literally, it is any type of adornment that is attached to the lip (*labrum*). However, the term usually refers to a piercing that is below the bottom lip, above the chin. It is sometimes referred to as a "tongue pillar" or a "soul patch piercing." *labrum* noun (pl. *labra*) Zoology - a structure corresponding to a lip, especially the upper border of the mouthparts of a crustacean or insect. *labral* adjective - early 18th cent.: from Latin, literally 'lip'; related to *labium*. (pl. *labia*)

1 Entomology a fused mouthpart which forms the floor of the mouth of an insect.

2 Botany the lower lip of the flower of a plant of the mint family.

*Labriformes* (fishes) from Latin *labrum* ("lip"). Any one of numerous edible, marine, spiny-finned fishes of the family *Labridae*, of which several species are found in the Mediterranean and on the Atlantic coast of Europe. Many of the species are bright-colored.

late 16th cent. (in the general sense 'lip, lip-like structure'): from Latin, 'lip'; related to *labrum*.

**lacertine, lacertian, lacertilian** Lizard-like; pertaining to lizards. Another strange word for **lacertine** is *saurian*. Some snakes are **lacertiform**, or **lacertilioid**, their bodies are shaped like those of the lizards. In Latin a *lacerta* is a 'lizard'.

**lachrymiform** Having the form of a tear. Pears would be perfectly **lachrymiform**, but for their sides which are somewhat too suddenly drawn in. Many ear-rings and necklaces have **lachrymiform** jewels dangling from them. **lachrymist** A weeper. A **lachrymator** or **lacrimator** is an irritant such as teargas or dust, which causes excessive flow of tears. Mourners once left their tears in **lachrymatory** vases - ones that hold tears - next to their deceased loved ones.

**lagenarious, lageniform** Shaped like a large bottle or flagon. **Lagenarious** things, like certain gourds and fruits, tend to have large bellies that end in a narrow neck. A bottle-shaped thing can also be *ampullaceous*. In Latin a *lagena* is a 'flagon'.

**lamelliform** Having the structure of **lamellæ**, that is thin plates or fins. The underside of a mushroom cap or the divisions of shell-chambers are **lamelliform**, so too are flakes of mica ore. A **lamellule** is a very small flake or scale.

**lanceolate** Shaped like the head of a lance or spear. Many leaves like those of the lance-leaved sugarbush, *Protea lanceolata*, are **lanceolate**. The broad, flat, yet voluminous, head of certain tree snakes is **lanceolately-fusiform**.

**lapilli** Small stones ejected as cinders from a volcano, often up to forty miles away. The **lapillo** is the entire body of fragments and ash thus ejected. A pebble or nugget that looks as if it comes from a volcano is **lapilliform**.

**lecotropical** Shaped like a horseshoe. The word is used especially by botanists who apply it to the shape of a plant's female germ cells or ovules before they become fertilized. In Greek a *lekos* is a 'dish' and *tropos*, 'turning'.

**lekythos** A fairly small Greek vase or flask with a narrow neck. The **lekythos** is meant to contain oil for preparing corpses for a funeral and for massaging at gymnasiums. A **lekythoid** fruit or micro-organism is shaped like a **lekythos**.

**lenticular, lentoid** Shaped like the seed of a lentil; round and biconvex. In Latin *lens* means 'lentil' and the more recent word 'lens', as in a magnifying or reducing glass of viewing, derives from it. A *lenticula* is a small lentil or lens.

**leporiform** Shaped a bit like a hare. Another quaint word for animals and things that look like a hare is *lagomorphic*. A **leporine** animal has qualities that typically belong to the hare. In Latin a *lepus* is a 'hare'.

**libriform** Having a structure like that of the finest, stringy fibre in the bark of a plant or tree. The **libriform** parts of our South African Pompom tree (*Dais cotinifolia*) was once used to weave an excellent rope. In Latin *liber* is 'bark'.

**lignificaton** The process whereby plant cells are turned into wood. A **ligneous** structure consists of, or resembles, wood. Today we are trying to get plastics to be **ligniform**, to resemble genuine wood. In Latin *lignum* is 'wood'.

**ligulate** Shaped like a small strap or **ligula**. A hair or a thin and small petal, as of certain daisies, is **ligulate** when it is a fraction flatter and shorter than one which is *ciliate* or 'eyelash shaped'. In Latin a *ligula* is a 'strap' from *ligo* - 'to bind'.

**limaçon** In old French warfare, a kind of military manoeuvre, literally translated as the snail-wheel. A **limaçon** is also a kind of mathematical form that appears when two ovals are placed at right angles within each other so that their sides are touching.

**limbate** Having a border in the form of a coloured line or a raised ridge. **Limbate** flower petals are bordered by a distinct coloured. Pelargonium flowers with a well-developed **limbation** are sought after. A **limbus** is a border or edge

**lingulate, linguiform** Tongue shaped. In Latin a *lingua* is a 'tongue', but a *lingula* is a little tongue. Many little processes, flaps and straps in insects, animals and plants are **lingular** because they look much like a small tongue.

**lithologist** A student of **lithology**, the branch of mineralogy that deals with stones and rocks. A **lithologist** can also be a doctor well adept in the science of gallstones and bladderstones. A **lithoid** appearance or structure is stone-like.

**lituate** In botany, an adjective describing the tips of tendrils or branches as being shaped like a Roman **lituus**, a forked staff with points curving outwards. A **lituiform** object looks like a spiral - the Roman **lituus** was also a spiral trumpet.

**lorate** A botanical term for strap-shaped, as in a **lorate** leaf. A strap-like shield or plate on the body of an animal, it is better referred to as **loral**. A **lorament**, now lost, is a leather band, from Latin *lorum* - a 'strap' or 'thong'.

**lordotic** Pertaining to **lordosis**, the body position assumed by certain animals during their period of mating in which they lower their stomach and push the buttocks up into the air. **Lordosis** is also the deformity of a permanently arched back.

**lumbricoid, lumbriciform** Resembling the earthworm or roundworm, from the Latin *lumbricus* - an 'earthworm'. The **lumbrical** tendons of the fingers look like worms. The scientific term for the roundworm parasite is *Ascaris lumbricoides*.

**lunula, lunule, lunette** Something in the shape or outline of a crescent or halfmoon; especially the bit of white at the base of one's nails. If something is shaped like a full moon it is **luniform**. In Latin a *lunula* is a small *luna* or 'moon'.

**lupiform** A typically British term describing jackals and other animals from foreign countries as resembling the well known wolf. **Lupous** or **lupine** things are wolf-like - someone with a **lupine** appetite is ravenous. In Latin a *lupus* is a 'wolf'.

**lyciske** An old heraldic beast portrayed as the hybrid of a dog and wolf. In Latin *lyciscus* is the masculine form of *lykos*, a 'wolf'. A **lycopanther** is a mythical beast, supposedly the offspring of the union between a panther and a wolf.

**lycotropal, lycotropous** Shaped like the letters U or C; or, like a horseshoe. Some seed-germs in the ovaries of flowers are **lycotropal** - they curve downwards. In Greek a *lykos* is 'anything in the form of a simple hook' and *trophos* - a 'turning'.

**lyrato-hastate** A botanical term describing leaves as being shaped partly like a harp or lyre and partly like the head of a spear. Any object shaped like a lyre is referred to as **lyrate** or **lyriform**. Some antelopes have **lyrate** horns.

