

Words from our Solar System

Let's talk about words derived from the members of the Solar System

*We will begin with the **Sun**, the head of the family.*

Sun – the adjectival form is **Solar**, meaning “of the Sun”.

Solar system – Our planetary system in which the **sun** occupies the central place.

Solar energy is the energy derived from the sun.

A **solar** year is the time taken by the earth to go around the **sun**.

Extra-**Solar** planets are planets discovered outside our **solar** system.

Solar flares indicate flares originating from the sun. These are hot gaseous material ejected from the surface of the sun, with temperatures of millions of degrees of Celsius and can affect the performance of man-made satellites orbiting the earth.

Now, we begin with the planets, and understand the English words based on them.

Mercury-is the first planet of the solar system.

It is named after the Roman God Mercury who was the messenger of the gods. He was swift, fleet-footed, clever, eloquent & thievish. The chemical element Mercury is associated with this planet in alchemy and is known as quick-silver, due to its ability to flow or move, a quality associated with the god Mercury.

A **mercurial** person is therefore the one who changes his moods quickly and often. He is unpredictable, capricious & whimsical.

The boss's **mercurial** nature made it difficult for the employees to approach him.

He is **mercurial** by temperament.

Venus- *The second planet from the Sun.* Venus is the Roman Goddess of Love & Beauty. Venus can be used to refer to an exceptionally beautiful woman.

The adjectival form is **Venusian**-*of or pertaining to the planet Venus.*

The **Venusian** atmosphere is mostly made up of carbon dioxide

The **Venusian** landscape is plain, hot and experiences acid rains.

Venusian is also the term used to refer to a hypothetical inhabitant of the planet Venus.

The other adjectival form is **Venerean**, but is rarely used today, but was used in literature.

"I am all **venerean** in feeling" --Chaucer.

"As she embraced and stirred her blood to the **Venerean** joy

The golden clasp those Grecian dames upon their girdles wear"

--Homer (in Illiad & Odyssey)

Venus has one more adjectival form, **venereal**, but today it is mainly used to refer to diseases that spread through sexual intercourse. It is no longer used in any other sense. But Shakespeare does use it in the same sense of venerean.

"To do some fatal execution?

No, madam, these are no **venereal** signs:

Vengeance is in my heart, death in my hand,

Blood and revenge are hammering in my head"

--Shakespeare (in Titus Andronicus)

Earth

The third rock from the sun. The adjectival form **earthy** is used to describe someone who is grounded, down-to-earth & practical. It can also be used to refer to something that is practical & down-to-earth, as in the “**earthy** problems of life”.

It also means something plain & simple as in “earthy homemade stew”.

When we talk about the “earthy enjoyment of life” it means raw, uninhibited enjoyment of life.

An earthy joke is something that is coarse, unrefined. It is bawdy & ribald and not cracked in polite company.

earthy is also used to describe something that reminds us of earth – as in :

The wine had an **earthy** flavour

or

Her yellow was a blend of **earthy** colors.

Earthy used to also mean “worldly” and “terrestrial” but that function has been taken over by the word “earthly”.

Our **earthly** existence is full of never ending challenges.

it is also used in the sense of materialistic :

our **earthly** possessions

Mars - *the fourth planet from the sun.*

Mars is the Roman God of war.

Martian is the adjectival form and means:

of or relating to the planet mars

eg: The **Martian** atmosphere is mostly composed of carbon-di-oxide

It also refers to the *hypothetical inhabitants* of the planet **Mars**. In the novel The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells, earth is invaded by **Martians**.

A related word is **martial**:

of, relating to, or characteristic of war, soldiers, or the military life.

warlike, inclined or disposed to war.

eg:

The ancient Romans were a **martial** people.

The band played a **martial** music, and the soldiers marched to its rhythm.

A **martial** stride is a something that is befitting or characteristic of a warrior.

A **martial** law is a temporary rule by military authorities imposed on a civilian population especially in times of war or when civil authority has broken down.

Jupiter

The fifth planet from the Solar System and is also the largest planet.

the chief Roman god, husband of Juno, and god of light, of the sky and weather, and of the state and its welfare and its laws

He was also known as **Jove**. (From Old Latin **Jovis**)

But some of them thought that this was not right, that they should have a king and a proper constitution, so they determined to send up a petition to **Jove** to give them what they wanted

- Aesop's Fables

by Jove - an exclamation used to emphasize an accompanying remark or to express surprise or approval.

an exclamation of surprise or excitement.

Used as a mild oath to express surprise or emphasis.

Robert, by Jove, it is you! I never expected to meet you here!

The adjective is **Jovian**

:of, relating to, or characteristic of the god or planet Jupiter

Jovian Satellites – Satellites of the planet Jupiter

Jovian planets refer to the gas giant planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. *They are called Jovian because they are Jupiter-like.*

Jovian thunderbolts or Jovian wrath refer to the Roman god Jupiter

The other adjectival form is **Jovial**

:having or expressing convivial humour; jolly

endowed with or characterized by hearty, joyous humor or a spirit of good-fellowship.

from Latin *joviālis* of (the planet) Jupiter, considered by astrologers to foster good humour.

He seems to be in a very **jovial** mood this morning

The audience was in a **jovial** mood.

Saturn

the planet that is sixth in order from the sun and that is surrounded by large rings

a Roman god of agriculture and father by Ops of Jupiter

Saturnalia the festival of Saturn, celebrated in December in ancient Rome as a time of unrestrained merrymaking.

any celebration marked by unrestrained revelry and often licentiousness; an orgy.

a wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity

This was their day, their feast of fools, their saturnalia, the annual orgy of the corporation of Law clerks and of the school.

- Notre-Dame de Paris by Victor

Saturnine:

Having the temperament of one born under the supposed astrological influence of Saturn.

a. Melancholy or sullen.

b. Having or marked by a tendency to be bitter or sardonic: a saturnine expression on his face of a gloomy or surly disposition

1. He is **saturnine** in temperament.
 2. <the men awaiting interrogation by the police shared a **saturnine** silence>
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Uranus

the planet that is seventh in order from the sun

The earliest supreme god, a personification of the sky, who was the son and consort of Gaea and the father of the Cyclopes and Titans.

The adjectival form is **Uranian**, *pertaining to the planet Uranus.*

Uranian also refers to the hypothetical inhabitant of the planet **Uranus**.

The element **Uranium** is named after this planet

Neptune

: the planet that is eighth in order from the sun

Roman Mythology - The god of water, later identified with the Greek Poseidon.

it can also refer to the sea or ocean (Neptune's mighty roar.)

The adjectival form is **Neptunian**

of or relating to the Roman God **Neptune**.

of, occurring on, or relating to the planet **Neptune**.

geology of sedimentary rock formations (such as dykes) formed under water.

The element **Neptunium** is named after this planet.

Pluto

:the planet that is ninth in order from the sun

:the Greek god of the underworld. He rules Hades.

Pluto was the Greek God of the Underworld. His Greek name Plouton was often conflated with Ploutos, the God of Wealth, because mineral wealth was found underground, and because Pluto ruled the deep earth that contained the seeds necessary for a bountiful harvest.

Hence the word Plutocracy indicates the rules of a country by a few wealthy individuals. It also refers to a group of very rich people who have a lot of power.

Example:

If only the wealthy can afford to run for public office, are we more a **plutocracy** than a democracy?

The Enron controversy reveals corporate greed and America's growing **plutocracy**.

The element **plutonium** is named after this planet.

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