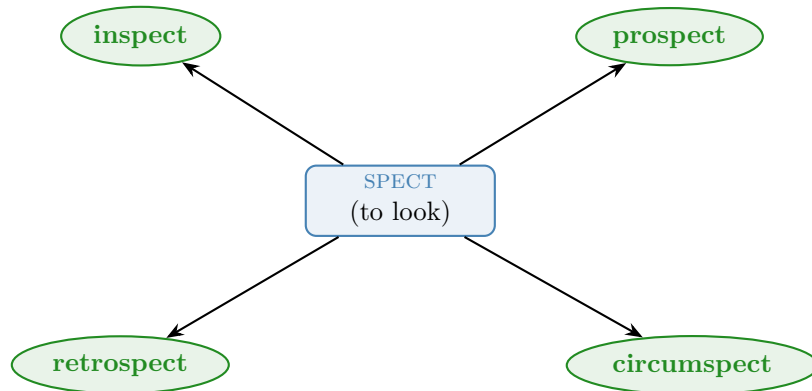


Daily Lexicon: Roots and Branches

August 2, 2026

Etymological Network

Today's selection focuses on the Latin root **SPECT** (to look) and its evolution into modern English.



Lexical Entries

- Inspect** *v.* To look into or examine carefully.
 - *Etymology:* in- (into) + spect (look).
 - *Example:* The mechanic will **inspect** the engine for faults.
- Prospect** *n.* A view or exploration (looking forward).
 - *Etymology:* pro- (forward) + spect (look).
 - *Example:* The job offers excellent career **prospects**.
- Retrospect** *n.* A looking back on past events.
 - *Etymology:* retro- (backward) + spect (look).
 - *Example:* In **retrospect**, quitting was the right choice.
- Circumspect** *adj.* Cautious; looking around at all possibilities.
 - *Etymology:* circum- (around) + spect (look).
 - *Example:* He was **circumspect** about signing the contract.
- Spectrum** *n.* A continuous range; originally, an apparition (something seen).
 - *Etymology:* Latin *spectrum* (appearance).
 - *Example:* The survey covers the full political **spectrum**.
- Speculate** *v.* To form a theory without evidence; to invest riskily.
 - *Etymology:* *speculari* (to spy out).
 - *Example:* Analysts **speculate** about market crashes.

Memory Hook

Visualize a detective (*in-spect*), a fortune teller (*pro-spect*), a historian (*retro-spect*), and a guard scanning his surroundings (*circum-spect*). All are defined by where they direct their gaze.