

Spy

English - Spy

Hebrew - שָׂפָא - Sapa Spy, Look Out, Keep Watch

This word, its derivatives and cognates, covers a broad range of application. It is found not only in the Semitic family but also widely in the Indo-European from far in the past.

Bishop Origin:

This word came down into Christianity through application in church functions.

An overseer: In apostolic times, it is quite manifest that there was no difference as to order between bishops and elders or presbyters (Acts 20:17-28; 1 Pet. 5:1, 2; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3). The term bishop is never once used to denote a different office from that of elder or presbyter. These different names are simply titles of the same office, "bishop" designating the function, namely, that of oversight, and "presbyter" the dignity appertaining to the office. Christ is figuratively called "the bishop [episcopos] of souls" (1 Pet. 2:25).

Old English **bisc(e)op** from Vulgar Latin **ebiscopus**, Late Latin **episcopus** from Greek **epískopos** equivalent to **epi-** + **skopós**.

Scope Origin:

Italian **scopo**: purpose, goal, from Latin **scopus**, Greek **skopós**: aim, target, watcher; akin to **skopein**: behold, to look at, consider, to watch. From hypothetical Proto IE *spek- "to observe." See Sanskrit **spasati** "sees;" Avestan **spasyeiti** "spies;" Greek **skeptesthai** "to look at;" Latin **specere** "to look at;" O.H.G. **spehhan** "to spy," German. **spähen** "to spy"). This "scope" is found in English microscope and telescope.

Note the phonetic changes that lead from Hebrew **sapa** to Greek **skopos**, to German **spehhan**, to modern English **spy**.

From TWOT:

sapa conveys the idea of being fully aware of a situation in order to gain some advantage or keep from being surprised by an enemy. The verb appears in the sense "to lie watching in ambush"; the wicked watches the righteous to slay him (Ps 37:32). Conversely the wise woman watches (looks to) the ways of her household; i.e. she diligently takes care of its every need (Prov 31:27). So too Yahweh is alert to what happens on earth in order that he may properly judge its inhabitants (Prov 15:3; cf Ps 66:7). It also expresses the posture of faith; Micah says, "As for me, I will look to Yahweh, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (Mic 7:7). Dhorme takes the form in Job 15:22 as a passive ptc. (**sapu**) meaning the result of being looked over, "choice" or "marked."

sôpeh means "watchman," one who was stationed on the wall and was responsible to inform the nation's leadership of any danger (cf. 1 Sam 14:16; 2 Sam 18:24ff; 2 Kings 9:17-20). Failure in his duties often carried the death penalty. The prophetic office is sometimes described in this language. To Ezekiel God says, "I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me" (Ezek 3:17; cf Ezek 33:7; Jer 6:17; Hab 2:1). If Ezekiel failed to give them God's warning he was liable for their lives; but if he faithfully proclaimed the message, he was free from any further responsibility regardless of the people's response (Ezek 3:18-21). Although God was faithful in sending Israel watchmen, many became blind to their mission (Isa 56:10). The failure of these watchmen and the rejection of the true ones were major reasons for the downfall of Israel. Conversely, the true prophets will be the watchmen who are first to sing of the advance of God's new saving deeds (Isa 52:7-10).

Indo-European Reflexes on Spy

Family/Language	Reflex(es)	Gloss
Celtic		
Irish:	easbog	bishop
Scots Gaelic:	easbuig	bishop
Welsh:	esgob	bishop
N-Germanic		
Old Norse:	spakr	quiet; wise, learned
	speki	wisdom; branch of learning, body of knowledge
English		
Middle English:	aspect	aspect
	asprien	to espy, detect, observe
	bisshop/bis(s)chop/bysshop(p)e	bishop
	circumspect	circumspect
	despisen	to despise
	despite	despite
	episcopal	episcopal
	especial	especial
	esprien	to espy
	perspective	perspective
	prospect	prospect

	respect	respect
	respite	respite
	specious	specious
	spectacle	spectacle
	spice	spice
	spien	to spy
	spite	spite
	suspect	suspect
	suspecten	to suspect
English:	aspect	position of stars/planets w.r.t. one another
	auspice	observation in augury (flight/feeding of birds)
	bishop	prelate, one having spiritual/ecclesiastical supervision
	circumspect	prudent, careful to consider circumstances/consequences
	colposcope	endoscope for examining vaginal/cervical tissues
	colposcopy	medical examination using colposcope
	conspicuous	obvious to eye/mind
	despicable	deserving to be despised
	despise	to regard with contempt/aversion
	despite	spite, pique, malice, contempt
	despite	notwithstanding, in spite of
	epidiascope	opaque projector
	episcopal	re: bishop(s)
	especial	special, particular
	espionage	practice of spying/using spies
	espy	to catch sight of
	expect	to stay, wait
	frontispiece	principal front of building
	horoscope	diagram of relative positions of planets in zodiac
	inspect	to look over, view closely, critically appraise
	introspect	to examine reflectively
	periscope	instrument using mirrors/prisms to transfer image between different heights
	perspective	aiding vision
	perspective	optical glass (e.g. in telescope)
	perspective	process/technique of representing spatial relations of objects
	perspicacious	keen, of acute mental vision/discernment
	prospect	outlook, exposure
	respect	reference, relation to/concern with something
	respite	postponement, temporary delay
	retrospect	to refer to past event
	-scope	means/instrument for viewing/observing
	scope	space/opportunity for unhampered thought/motion/activity
	-scopy	viewing, observation
	skeptic	adherent/advocate of skepticism
	species	individuals having common attributes/designated by common name
	specimen	sample, part/item typical of whole/group
	specious	showy

	spectacle	something exhibited as notable/unusual/entertaining
	spectrum	array of components separated/arranged in order
	speculate	to reflect, ponder/meditate on subject
	speculum	tubular instrument inserted into body passage for inspection/medication
	spice	aromatic vegetable product used to season/flatten food
	spite	hatred, petty ill will
	spy	to scout, watch secretly
	suspect	suspected, regarded with suspicion
	suspect	to distrust, have doubts about
	telescope	optical instrument for observing distant objects
	transpicuous	transparent
W-Germanic		
Dutch:	bioscoop	cinema
	bisschop	bishop
	spiegel	mirror
Old Saxon:	biskop	bishop
	spēgal	mirror
Old High German:	piscof	bishop
	spehōn	to spy
	spiegel	mirror
Middle High German:	bischof	bishop
German:	Bischof	bishop
	spähen	to spy, peer
	Spiegel	mirror
N-Germanic		
Old Norse:	biskup	bishop
	spá	prophecy, song of fate
	spegill	mirror
Danish:	bisp	bishop
	spejl	mirror
Swedish:	biskop	bishop
	spegel	mirror
E-Germanic		
Gothic:	aipiskaupus	bishop
Italic		
Latin:	aspectus	looked at
	aspicio, aspicere	to look at
	auspex	leader, protector, bird augur
	auspicium, auspicii	divination via flight of birds
	circumspectō, circumspectāre, circumspectāvī, circumspectātum	to look around
	circumspectus	circumspect
	circumspicio, circumspicere	to look around, be cautious
	cōspiciō, conspicere, conspēxī, conspectum	to perceive, get sight of
	conspicuus	conspicuous, visible
	dēspiciō, dēspicere, dēspēxī, dēspectum	to despise, look astray
	despicor, despiciari	to despoil, plunder
	exspectō, exspectāre, exspectāvī, exspectātum	to wait for, look forward to

	horoscopus	device to indicate time
	inspectus	inspected
	inspicio, inspicere	to inspect
	introspectus	having looked inside
	introspicio, introspicere	to look inside
	perspectus	looked at through, clearly seen
	perspicax, perspicācis	perspicacious, sharp-sighted
	perspicio, perspicere	to look through, see clearly
	prospectus	view, prospect
	prospectus	foreseen
	prospicio, prospicere	to look forward, exercise foresight
	respectus	act of looking back
	respectus	regarded, looked back at
	respicio, respicere	to look back, regard
	retrospectus	looked back at
	retrospicio, retrospicere	to look back at
	scepticus	skeptical
	species, speciei	aspect, appearance; species
	specimen	model, representative of species
	speciō, specere	to look
	speciosus	beautiful, plausible
	speco, specere	to look at
	spectaculum	show, spectacle
	spectō, spectāre, spectāvī, spectātum	to watch, look/gaze at
	spectrum	specter, appearance
	spectus	looked at
	specula	watchtower
	speculatus	examined
	speculor, speculāri	to examine, spy out
	speculum	mirror
	specus, specus	cave, pit
	suspecto, suspectāre	to suspect
	suspectus	looked at, suspected
	suspico, suspicere	to look at from above
	transpicio, transpicere	to look through
Late Latin:	despicabilis	despicable
	episcopalis	episcopal
	episcopus	bishop
	frontispicium	front view, frontispiece
Medieval Latin:	perspectivus	optical, re: sight
	respectus	respect
New Latin:	-scopium	-scope, looking
	spectrum	array of components
	tele-scopium	lit. far-seeing
	transpiciuus	transparent
Spanish:	especia	spice
	obispo	bishop
Old French:	despire	to despise
	despit	despite
	espice	spice

	espier	to espy, catch glimpse of
	respit	rest
Middle French:	circonspect	circumspect
	espion	spy
	espionage	espionage
	espionner	to spy
	frontispice	frontispiece
	horoscope	horoscope
	perspective	view, perspective
	spectacle	spectacle, magnifying glass
	suspect	suspect
French:	épice	spice
	espionnage	activity of spying
Old Italian:	prospettiva	technique of representing relations of objects
	prospetto	view, prospect
	spione	spy
Italian:	dispetto	despite
	scòpo	goal, purpose
	vescovo	bishop
Baltic		
Lithuanian:	wyskupas	bishop
Albanian		
Albanian:	respektim	respect
Hellenic		
Homeric Greek:	σκοπος	spy, scout, watch(man)
Attic:	σκοπο	to view, look at, consider
Greek:	επι-σκοπος	guardian, overseer
	σκεπτικός	watchful, thoughtful, reflective
	σκεπτομαι	to look out/about/carefully
	-skopion	observation, examination
	τηλε-σκοπος	lit. far-seeing
	hōro-skopos	device to indicate time
Armenian		
Armenian:	eskop	bishop