Guide to Pronouncing Taxonomic Terms

Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Agric	Modified from *agriculture.*	ag-rick (ag·rik)		▶
Albic	L. *albus,* white.	al-bick (ȧl·bik)		▶
Alfisol	From *pedalfer* in Marbut's classif., and L. *solum* , soil.	alf-i-soll (al·fa·sȯl)		▶
Allic	From *aluminum.*	al-ik (al·ik)		▶
Allitic	From *aluminum.*	a-lit-ik (ə·lit·ik)		▶
Amorphic	Gr. *a-* , without, and *morph,* form.	a-morf-ik (a·mōr·fik)		▶
Andic	Jp. *ando,* dark; related to *andisol.*	and-ik (an·dik)		▶
Andisol	Jp. *ando,* dark, and L. *solum,* soil.	and-i-soll (an·di·sȯl)		▶
Anhydritic	Gr. *anhydrous,* dry, waterless; from *anhydrite.*	an-hide-rit-ik (an·hīd·ri·tik)		▶
Anhydrous	Gr. *anhydrous,* dry, waterless.	an-hide-russ (an·hīd·rəs)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Aniso	Gr. *aniso,* unequal.	an-i-so (an·ī·sō)	an-is-oh (an·is·ō)	▶
Anthraquic	Gr. *anthropos,* human, and L. *aqua,* water.	an-thrak-wick (an·thrak·wik)		▶
Anthric	Gr. *anthropos,* human.	an-thrik (an·thrik)		▶
Anthropic	Gr. *anthropos,* human.	an-thra-pick (an·thrä·pik)		▶
Anthropogenic	Gr. *anthropos,* human.	an-thro-po-gen-ik (an·thrə·po·jen·ik)		▶
Aquic	L. *aqua,* water.	ak-wick (ak·wik)		▶
Araric	L. *arare,* to plow.	a-rare-ik (ə·rer·ik)		▶
Aridic	L. *aridus,* dry.	a-rid-ik (ə·ri·dik)		▶
Aridisol	L. *aridus,* dry, and *solum,* soil.	a-rid-i-sol (ə·rid·i·sȯl)		▶
Argillan	L. *argilla* , clay.	are-jill-an (är·jil·an)	are-jill-an (är·jil·an)	▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Argillic	L. *argilla* , clay.	are-jill-ic (är·jil·ik)		▶
Artifactic	From *artifact.*	are-ti-fact-ik (är·ti·fak·tik)		▶
Ashifactic	From *ash* and *artifact.*	ash-ee-fact-ik (a·shē·fak·tik)		▶
Ashy	From *ash.*	ash-ee (a·shē)		▶
Asphaltic	From *asphalt.*	ass-fault-ik (as·fȧl·tik)		▶
Calcareous	L. *calcis* , lime.	cal-care-ee-us (kal·ker·ē·əs)		▶
Calcic	L. *calcis* , lime.	kal-sic (kal·sik)		▶
Cambic	L. *cambiare,* to exchange.	cam-bik (kam·bik)		▶
Carbonatic	From *carbonate.*	car-bon-at-ik (kär·bə·na·tik)		▶
Cindery	From *cinder* .	sin-der-ee (sind·ə·rē)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Combustic	From *combust* .	come-bust-ik (kəm·bəs·tik)		▶
Concretic	From *concretion* .	con-creet-ik (kän·krē·tik)		▶
Coprogenous	Gr. *kopros,* dung.	co-proge-en-us (kō·prä·jə·nəs)		▶
Cryic	Gr. *kryos,* icy cold.	cry-ik (krī·ik)		▶
Cryoturbation	Gr. *kryos,* icy cold, and L. *turbationem,* disturbance.	cry-oh-tur-bay-shun (kry·ō·tər·bā·shən)		▶
Cumulization	From *accumulate* .	cume-you-li-za-shun (kyü·myə·li·zā·shən)		▶
Densic	From *dense* .	den-sik (den·sik)		▶
Desilication	From *silica* .	de-sil-i-cay-shu (dē·si·li·kā·shən)		▶
Diatomaceous	L. (genus name) *Diatoma.*	die-a-toe-may-shuss (dī·a·tō·mā·shəs)		▶
Dredgic	From *dredge* .	dredge-ik (dred·jik)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Durinode	L. *durus,* hard, and *nodus,* knot.	dur-i-node (dər·i·nōd)		▶
Duripan	L. *durus,* hard.	dur-i-pan (dər·i·pan)		▶
Dysic	Modified from Gr. *dys* , ill, and *dystrophic* , infertile.	dice-ik (dī·sik)	dis-ik (di·sik)	▶
Eluvial	L. *eluere,* to wash out.	ee-loov-ee-al (ē·lü·vē·əl)		▶
Endosaturation	Gr. *endon,* within, and Eng. *saturation.*	en-doh-sat-ure-a-shun (en·dō·sa·chə·rā·shən)		▶
Entisol	Eng. r*ecent,* and L. *solum* , soil.	en-toe-soll (en·tȯ·sȯl)		▶
Epipedon	Gr. *epi,* over, and *pedon,* soil.	ep-ih-ped-on (e·pi·pe·dȯn)	ep-ee-ped-on (e·pē·pe·dȯn)	▶
Episaturation	Gr. *epi,* over, and Eng. *saturation.*	ep-ee-sat-ure-a-shun (e·pē·sa·chə·rā·shən)		▶
Euic	Modified from Gr. *eu,* well, and *eutrophic,* fertile.	you-ik (yü·ik)		▶
Ferrihumic	L. *ferrum,* iron, and *humus,* earth.	ferr-ee-hume-ik (fer·eē·hü·mik)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Ferrihydritic	L. *ferrum,* iron, and Gr. *hydor,* water.	ferr-ee-hide-rid-ik (fer·eē·hī·dri·tik)		
Ferritic	L. *ferrum,* iron.	ferr-it-ik (fər·i·tik)		
Ferruginous	L. *ferrum,* iron.	ferr-ruge-en-us (fər·rü·gi·nəs)		
Fibric	L. *fibra,* fiber.	fib-rik (fib·rik)		
Folistic	L. *folia,* leaf.	foe-list-ik (fō·lis·tik)		
Fragic	L. *fragilis,* brittle.	frage-ik (fra·jik)		
Fragipan	L. *fragilis,* brittle.	frage-i-pan (fra·ji·pan)		
Fragmental	From *fragment* .	frag-men-tal (frag·men·tᵊl)		
Frigid	As in English; originally from L. *frigidus,* cold.	frige-id (fri·jid)		
Gelic	L. *gelare,* to freeze.	jell-ik (je·lik)		

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Gelisol	L. *gelare,* to freeze, and *solum,* soil.	jell-i-soll (je·li·sȯl)		▶
Gibbsitic	From mineral term *gibbsite* .	gib-sit-ik (gib·si·tik)		▶
Gilgai	Native Australian term.	gill-guy (gil·gī)		▶
Glacic	L. *glacialis,* icy.	glass-ik (gla·sik)		▶
Glassy	As in English.	glass-ee (gla·sē)		▶
Glauconitic	From mineral term *glauconite* .	glou-con-it-ik (glaů·kə·ni·tik)		▶
Gley	Ukrainian *glei,* sticky blue clay.	glay (glā)		▶
Glossic	Gr. *glossa,* tongue.	gloss-ik (glä·sik)		▶
Goethite	Mineral name, after Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.	gur-tite (gər·tīt)	go-tite (gō·tīt)	▶
Gypseous	From mineral term *gypsum* .	jip-see-us (jip·sē·əs)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Gypsic	From mineral term *gypsum* .	jip-sik (jip·sik)		▶
Gypsifactic	From mineral term *gypsum* , and *artifact* .	jip-see-fact-ik (jip·sē·fak·tik)		▶
Halloysitic	From mineral term *halloysite* .	ha-loy-sit-ik (ha·lȯi·si·tik)		▶
Hemic	Gr. *hemi,* half.	hem-ik (he·mik)		▶
Hematite	Mineral name.	heem-a-tite (hē·ma·tīt)	hem-a-tite (he·ma·tīt)	▶
Histic	Gr. *histos,* tissue.	hiss-tik (his·tik)		▶
Histosol	Gr. *histos,* tissue, and L. *solum,* soil.	hiss-toe-soll (his·tȯ·sȯl)		▶
Humification	L. *humus,* earth.	hume-i-fi-kay-shun (hyü·mi·fi·kā·shən)		▶
Humilluvic	L. *humus,* earth, and Gr. *louo,* to wash.	hume-i-loov-ik (hyü·mi·lü·vik)		▶
Hydrous	Gr. *hydor,* water.	hide-russ (hīd·rəs)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Hypergelic	Gr. *huper,* over (excess), and L. *gelare,* to freeze.	hype-er-jell-ik (hī·pər·gel·ik)		▶
Hypergypsic	Gr. *huper* , over (excess), and mineral term *gypsum* .	hype-er-jip-sik (hī·pər·jip·sik)		▶
Hyperthermic	Gr. *huper* , over (excess), and *therme,* heat.	hype-er-therm-ik (hī·pər·thər·mik)		▶
Illitic	From the mineral term *illite* .	i-lit-ik (i·li·tik)		▶
Illuvial	L. *illuvies,* mud.	i-loov-ee-al (i·lü·vyəl)		▶
Inceptisol	L. *inceptum,* beginning, and *solum,* soil.	in-sept-i-soll (in·sep·ti·sȯl)		▶
Isofrigid	Gr. *isos,* equal, same, and L. *frigidus,* cold.	eye-so-frige-id (ī·sō·fri·jid)		▶
Isohyperthermic	Gr. *isos,* equal, same, *huper,* over (excess), and *therme,* heat.	eye-so-hype-er-therm-ik (ī·sō·hī·pər·thər·mik)		▶
Isomesic	Gr. *isos,* equal, same, and *mesos,* middle.	eye-so-mez-ik (ī·sō·me·sik)	eye-so-mee-zik (ī·sō·me·sik)	▶
Isothermic	Gr. *isos,* equal, same, and *therme,* heat.	eye-so-therm-ik (ī·sō·thər·mik)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Isotic	From chemistry term *isomer* .	eye-sot-ik (ī·sȯ·tik)		▶
Kandic	From mineral term *kandite* .	can-dik (kan·dik)		▶
Kaolinitic	From mineral term *kaolinite* .	kay-oh-lin-it-ik (kā·ō·li·ni·tik)		▶
Lamella	L. *lamella,* dim.	la-mell-ah (lə·me·lə)		▶
Lamellae	L. *lamella,* dim.	la-mell-eye (la·me·lī)	la-mell-ee (lə·me·lē)	▶
Limnic	Gr. *limn,* lake.	lim-nik (lim·nik)		▶
Lithic	Gr. *lithos,* stone.	lith-ik (li·thik)		▶
Lithologic	From geology term *lithology* .	lith-oh-loge-ik (li·thō·lȯ·jik)		▶
Loess	Ger. *löss,* loose.	luss (lůs)	low-ess (lō·es)	▶
Magnesic	From element term *magnesium* .	mag-neez-ik (mag·nē·zik)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Marl	Geology/earth science term.	mahrl (märl)		▶
Marly	Geology/earth science term.	mahrl-ee (mär·lē)		▶
Medial	L. *medius,* middle.	mee-dee-al (mē·dē·ᵊl)		▶
Melanic	Gr. *melasanos,* black.	meh-lan-ik (me·la·nik)		▶
Melanization	Pedological process term with Gr. origin, *melasanos,* black.	meh-lan-i-zay-shun (me·lan·ni·zā·shən)		▶
Mesic	Gr. *mesos,* middle.	mez-ik (me·zik)	mee-zik (mē·zik)	▶
Methanogenic	From chemistry term *methane* .	meth-an-oh-gen-ik (me·tha·nō·je·nik)		▶
Micaceous	From mineral term *mica* .	my-kay-shus (mī·kā·shəs)		▶
Micro	Gr. *mikros,* small.	mike-row (mī·krō)		▶
Mollic	L. *mollis,* soft.	moll-ik (mȯl·lik)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Mollisol	L. *mollis,* soft, and *solum,* soil.	moll-i-sol (mȯ·li·sȯl)		▶
Mottles	Probably from Eng. *motley.*	mot-tuls (mȯ·tᵊls)		▶
Munsell	Trade name.	mun-sell (mən·səl)		▶
Natric	L. *natrium,* sodium.	nay-trik (nāt·rik)		▶
Nonacid	L. *non,* not, and *acidus,* sour.	non-ass-id (nȯn·a·si·dik)		▶
Ochric	Gr. *ochrus,* pale.	oak-rik (ōk·rik)		▶
Ortstein	Ger. *ort,* site, and *stein,* stone.	ort-stine (ȯrt·stīn)		▶
Oxic	F. *oxide,* oxide.	ox-ik (ȯk·zik)		▶
Oxisol	F. *oxide,* oxide.	ox-i-sol (ȯk·zi·sȯl)		▶
Paralithic	Gr. *para,* similar to, and *lithos,* stone.	pair-a-lith-ik (par·e·li·thik)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Pararock	Gr. *para,* similar to, and Eng. *rock* .	pair-a-rock (par·e·ṙȯk)		▶
Parasesquic	Gr. *para* , similar to, and *sesquic* from mineral term *sesquioxide* .	pair-a-ses-quick (par·e·ses·kwik)		▶
Pauciartifactic	L. *paucus* , little, and *artifact* .	paw-see-are-ti-fact-ik (pȧ·sē·är·ti·fak·tik)		▶
Pedogenic	Gr, *pedon,* soil, and Eng. *genesis.*	ped-oh-gen-ik (pe·dō·je·nik)		▶
Pedology	Gr, *pedon,* soil, and *-ology,* an academic field.	ped-ol-oh-gee (pe·dȯ·lō·jē)		▶
Pedon	Gr. *pedon,* soil.	ped-on (pe·dȯn)		▶
Peraquic	L. *per,* throughout (time and space), and L. *aqua,* water.	per-ak-wick (per·ak·wik)		▶
Pergelic	L. *per,* throughout (time and space), and *gelare,* to freeze.	per-jell-ik (per·je·lik)		▶
Permafrost	From *permanent* and *frost* .	perm-a-frost (per·ma·frȯst)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Perudic	L. *per,* throughout (time and space), and *udus,* humid.	per-ude-ik (per·ü·dik)		
Petrocalcic	Gr. *petra,* rock, and L. *calcis,* lime.	pet-rho-kal-sic (pet·rō·kal·sik)		
Petroferric	Gr. *petra,* rock, and L. *ferrum,* iron.	pet-rho-ferr-ik (pet·rō·fe·rik)		
Petrogypsic	Gr. *petra,* rock, and mineral term *gypsum* .	pet-rho-jip-sik (pet·rō·jip·sik)		
Placic	Gr. *plax* , flat stone.	plak-ik (plak·ik)	pla-sick (pla·sik)	
Plaggen	Ger. *plaggen,* sod.	plah-gen (pla·jən)		
Plinthite	Gr. *plinthos,* brick.	plin-thite (plin·thīt)		
Podzolization	Russian *pod,* under, and *zola,* ash.	pod-zol-i-za-shun (pȯd·zə·li·zā·shən)		
Pumice	Geology/earth science term.	pum-iss (pə·mis)		
Pumiceous	From geology/earth science term *pumice* .	pum-iss-shus (pə·mi·shəs)		

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Pyrocarbonic	Gr. *pyros,* fire, and element term *carbon* .	pie-rho-car-bon-ik (pī·rō·kär·bȯ·ni·tik)		▶
Redoximorphic	Chemistry term *redox,* reduction/oxidation, and Gr. *morphe,* form.	ree-dox-i-morf-ik (rē·däk·zi·mȯr·fik)		▶
Rhodic	Gr. *rhodon* , rose.	road-ik (rō·dik)		▶
Salic	L. *sal,* salt.	sal-ik (sa·lik)	say-lik (sā·lik)	▶
Salinization	Eng. *saline* .	sal-in-eh-zay-shun (sa·li·ni·zā·shən)		▶
Sapric	Gr. *saprose,* rotten.	sap-rik (sap·rik)		▶
Semiactive	Eng. prefix *semi* and *active* .	sem-ee-act-ive (se·mē·ak·tiv)	sem-eye-act-ive (se·mī·ak·tiv)	▶
Sequum	Latin, *sequi,* follow, and *solum,* ground, soil.	seek-wum (sēk·wům)		▶
Sesquic	From mineral term *sesquioxide* .	ses-quik (ses·kwik)		▶
Siliceous	From mineral term *silica* .	sil-ish-us (si·li·shəs)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Skeletal	Earth science term for soil fabric, from *skeleton* .	skel-i-tel (skel·i·tᵊl)	skel-ee-tel (ske·lē·tᵊl)	▶
Skeletan	Soil science term from *skeleton grain* and *cutan* .	skel-i-tan (skel·i·tᵊn)		▶
Slickensides	Earth science term.	slick-en-sides (sli·kᵊn·sīdz)		▶
Smectitic	From mineral term *smectite* .	smek-tit-ik (smek·ti·tik)		▶
Solum	L. *solum,* ground, soil.	so-lum (sō·lům)		▶
Sombric	F. *sombre,* dark.	som-brik (sȯm·brik)		▶
Spodic	Gr. *spodos,* wood ash.	spodd-ik (spȯ·dik)		▶
Spodosol	Gr. *spodos,* wood ash, and L. *solum,* soil.	spodd-o-sol (spȯ·də·sȯl)		▶
Spolic	Middle Eng. *spoile* .	spol-ik (spȯ·dik)		▶
Subactive	Eng. prefix *sub* and *active* .	sub-act-ive (sůb·ak·tiv)		▶

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Technical Term	Derived From	Preferred Pronunciation (Phonetic)	Alternate Pronunciation	Click to Listen
Subgelic	Eng. prefix *sub,* and L. *gelare,* to freeze.	sub-jell-ik (sůb·je·lik)		▶
Sulfidic	From chemical term *sulphide* .	sul-fid-ik (sůl·fi·dik)		▶
Sulfuric	From element term *sulphur* .	sul-fuer-ik (sůl·fyů·rik)		▶
Superactive	Eng. prefix *super* and *active* .	soop-er-ak-tive (sü·pər·ak·tiv)		▶
Tephra	Geology term, from Gr. *tephra,* ash.	tef-ra (te·frə)		▶
Thermic	Gr. *therme,* heat.	therm-ik (thər·mik)		▶
Torric	L. *torridus,* hot and dry.	tor-ik (tȯ·rik)		▶
Udic	L. *udus,* humid.	yood-ik (ü·dik)		▶
Ultisol	L. *ultimus,* last, and *solum,* soil.	ult-i-sol (ůl·ti·sůl)		▶
Umbric	L. *umbra,* shade.	um-brik (ům·brik)		▶

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Ustic	L. *ustus,* burnt.	ust-ik (ü·stik)		▶
Vermiculitic	From mineral term *vermiculite* .	ver-mik-you-lit-ik (vər·mi·kyü·li·tik)		▶
Vertisol	L. *verto,* turn, and *solum,* soil.	vert-i-sol (vər·ti·sȯl)		▶
Xanthic	Gr. *xanthos,* yellow.	zanth-ik (zan·thik)		▶
Xeric	Gr. *xeros,* dry.	zer-ik (zə·rik)	zear-ik (zē·rik)	▶