Latin-Based Metaphors and Metaphorical Systems in English

1. PEND-, POND- “hang, be heavy” [impend, ponderous]
   a. also, “hang in a balance” > weigh, pay [compensate]
   b. > “weigh mentally” [pensive, ponder]

2. COG- “force” (con- + AG-, “drive together”) [cogent]
   a. > “force thoughts together, think, reflect, consider” [cogitate]

3. sub-, “under” [submarine]
   a. > “sneakily,” cf. Eng “under the carpet” [subterfuge, surreptitious, subvert, suborn (bribe)]
   b. also > “helpfully” [support, subvention, succor]

4. in-, “in, into”

Other Latin-based Metaphors

1. Mental Metaphors
   a. ERR- “wander” > “be mistaken”
   b. MOV-/MOT- “move” > “affect emotionally”
   c. JAC- “throw” > “take a guess”
   d. knowing = separating
      1) CERN- “separate,” cf. discern
         a) also, CONcern “separate very much/clearly”
      2) VID-, as in divide “see apart/as separate”
      3) SCI- = orig. “cut”
      4) PUT- “think” (orig. “prune”) ?= part of this system

2. Orientational Metaphors
   a. prae-, “forth”
      1) “before/forward” > “in advance, with forethought”
         a) premise (taken in advance)
      2) “with forethought” > “in a studied manner, carefully”
         a) precise (cut carefully), prescribe (written out precisely)
      3) “carefully” > “thoroughly, extremely”
         a) precipitous (headlong), predominate, preoccupy, preponderance, prevail, pretense
b. FRONT/BACK = pro-/re-, like Eng UP/DOWN
   1) pro- “fore” > “good”
      a) profit (make forward), progress (step forward), prolong, promote, proponent, propagate, propensity, prospect, prosper, provide/prudence
   2) re- “back” > “bad”
      a) reprobate, rescind, resent, refuse, reduce, reprove (blame), repudiate, renege/renegade, remorse, recrimination, reluctant, retard, reticent, repent, recluse
   3) exceptions
      a) “bad” pro-’s: profligate, prohibit, promiscuous, proscribe/proscription, protest
      b) “good” re-’s: redeem, retain, resurrect, respect, reproduce

3. other metaphors involving Latin BASES
   a. CANT- “sing” > “lure (into a trap),” cf. the Sirens
      1) enchant, incantation, incentive
      2) VS recant
   b. FERV- “bubble” > “boil, be hot” > “become excited”
      1) fervent, fervidity
   c. CAS-/CID-/CAS- “fall” > “chance”
      1) accident, casual
   d. SOLV- “loosen, free” > “cleanse”
      1) absolve
      2) resolve
   e. SULT- “jump” > “stand out” (result, salient)
      1) “stand out” > “keep existing, i.e. doesn’t die” (resilient)
         a) cf. exist “stand out” > “be”
   f. ROG- base: “ask” > “pursue one’s rights in court or legislature”
      1. + inter- “between” > interrogate
      2. + de- “down, bad” > derogatory
      3. + sub- “under, instead of” (cf. helping sense of sub-) > surrogate
      4. + pre- “before” > prerogative
      5. n.b. other minor, law-based usages of ROG- base
         a) arrogate (ad-), “claim unduly for oneself,” cf. arrogant
         b) abrogate (ab-), “repeal”
         c) obrogate (ob-), “repeal by making a contrary law”
         d) prorogate (pro-), “defer, discontinue” [cf. prolong, protract]
Lakoff/Johnson, p.160:
In a culture where the myth of objectivism is very much alive and truth is always absolute truth, the people who get to impose their metaphors on the culture get to define what we consider to be true – absolutely and objectively true.

Aristotle: “the greatest thing by far is to be master of metaphor” (Poetics 1459a)
“it is from metaphor that we can best get hold of something fresh” (Rhetoric 1410b)

Lakoff/Johnson, p. 194:
What objectivism misses is the fact that understanding, and therefore truth, is necessarily relative to our cultural conceptual systems and that it cannot be framed in any absolute or neutral conceptual system. . . . What subjectivism specifically misses is that our understanding, even our most imaginative understanding, is given in terms of a conceptual system that is grounded in our successful functioning in our physical and cultural environments.