

# Exploring the Origins of Words

Etymology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

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**1. Which language family is the source of the word 'alphabet'?**

- A) Latin
- B) Greek
- C) Phoenician**
- D) Sanskrit

**2. The English word 'salary' historically derives from the Latin word 'salarium', which referred to:**

- A) A type of spice
- B) Salt money**
- C) A military ration
- D) A tax payment

**3. Which ancient civilization is credited with giving us the roots for many English words related to mathematics and science?**

- A) Egyptian
- B) Roman
- C) Greek**
- D) Babylonian

**4. The word 'disaster' originates from a belief in:**

- A) Demonic influence
- B) Witchcraft
- C) Astrological influence**
- D) Natural selection

**5. What does the etymological root of the word 'robot' (from Czech 'robota') signify?**

- A) Machine
- B) Labor**
- C) Intelligence
- D) Automation

**6. The word 'paradigm' comes from Greek and originally meant:**

- A) A model or pattern**
- B) A debate
- C) An example
- D) A conclusion

**7. The English word 'telephone' is a portmanteau of which two Greek words?**

**A) Tele (far) and phonos (sound)**

B) Theos (god) and phone (voice)

C) Telo (end) and phoros (bearer)

D) Teles (complete) and philia (love)

**8. Which language is the primary source for the English words 'algebra', 'algorithm', and 'alcohol'?**

A) Persian

B) Sanskrit

**C) Arabic**

D) Turkish

**9. The word 'panic' is etymologically linked to which Greek deity, associated with sudden, irrational fear?**

A) Apollo

B) Zeus

C) Dionysus

**D) Pan**

**10. The English word 'trivialize' comes from the Latin word 'trivialis', which literally means:**

A) Of little importance

**B) Found at the crossroads**

C) Commonplace

D) Related to three

**11. The term 'etymology' itself is derived from which ancient language and its components?**

A) Latin: 'etymo' (true) and 'logos' (word)

**B) Greek: 'etymon' (true sense) and 'logia' (study of)**

C) Sanskrit: 'iti' (thus) and 'mol' (root)

D) Old English: 'æthely' (noble) and 'gemynd' (memory)

**12. Which Germanic language had a significant influence on Old English, contributing words like 'sky', 'skin', and 'give'?**

**A) Old Norse**

B) Gothic

C) Old Saxon

D) Frisian

**13. The word 'clue' in its modern sense of a hint or piece of evidence originated from:**

- A) A type of knot
- B) A ball of yarn
- C) A mythological thread**
- D) A riddle answer

**14. The word 'gossip' historically referred to:**

- A) A child's playmate
- B) A religious confessor
- C) A close friend**
- D) A marketplace rumor

**15. The English word 'gentle' is derived from which Latin word, meaning 'of noble birth'?**

- A) Gentilis**
- B) Generosus
- C) Gentem
- D) Generare

**16. Which language is the origin of the word 'hygiene'?**

- A) Latin
- B) French
- C) Greek**
- D) German

**17. The word 'candidate' comes from the Latin word 'candidatus', meaning:**

- A) White-robed**
- B) Honest
- C) Pure
- D) Appointed

**18. What historical event led to a significant influx of Norman French vocabulary into the English language?**

- A) The Viking invasions
- B) The signing of the Magna Carta
- C) The Norman Conquest of 1066**
- D) The Black Death