

Exploring the Origins of Words

Etymology · Practice Test · 18 Questions

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