

Etymology Basics

Etymology · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. What is the primary focus of etymology?

- A) The study of pronunciation
- B) The study of word origins and development**
- C) The study of sentence structure
- D) The study of punctuation rules

2. Which of the following disciplines is most closely related to etymology?

- A) Astronomy
- B) Geology
- C) Linguistics**
- D) Biology

3. The word 'etymology' itself comes from which ancient language?

- A) Latin
- B) Sanskrit
- C) Ancient Greek**
- D) Old English

4. A morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit of a word. What can etymology help us understand about morphemes?

- A) Their current usage in slang
- B) Their historical roots and meanings**
- C) Their impact on social media trends
- D) Their relation to musical notes

5. When a word's meaning changes significantly over time, this is known as:

- A) Semantic change**
- B) Phonetic drift
- C) Syntactic evolution
- D) Lexical innovation

6. Learning about the etymology of a word can often provide insight into:

- A) The author's personal preferences
- B) The cultural context in which it was created or adopted**
- C) The current stock market fluctuations
- D) The weather patterns of the past century

7. The process by which a word from one language is borrowed into another is called:

- A) Cognition
- B) Homonymy
- C) Loanword adoption**
- D) Polysemy

8. Which of these is an example of a word with a traceable, often Latin or Greek, root related to science?

- A) Banana
- B) Television**
- C) Kangaroo
- D) Computer