

Word Origins for Little Explorers

Etymology · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. The word 'alphabet' comes from the names of the first two letters of which ancient language?

- A) Latin
- B) Greek
- C) Hebrew
- D) Egyptian

2. The word 'robot' comes from a Czech word that originally meant what?

- A) Worker
- B) Machine
- C) Helper
- D) Metal

3. The English word 'candy' can be traced back to the Sanskrit word 'khanda', which refers to what substance?

- A) Sugar
- B) Honey
- C) Fruit
- D) Spice

4. The word 'galaxy' comes from a Greek word that means what?

- A) Bright light
- B) Star path
- C) Milky circle
- D) Space dust

5. Which animal's name comes from an ancient word meaning 'earth lion'?

- A) Tiger
- B) Giraffe
- C) Hippopotamus
- D) Elephant

6. The word 'camera' comes from a Latin word that originally meant what?

- A) Light box
- B) Dark room
- C) Glass lens
- D) Picture frame

7. The word 'dinosaur' was created by combining two Greek words that mean what?

- A) Big lizard
- B) Terrible lizard
- C) Ancient beast
- D) Strong giant

8. The word 'sandwich' is named after a person who held which title?

- A) A famous explorer
- B) An English Earl
- C) A royal king
- D) A hungry inventor

9. The word 'school' comes from a Greek word that originally meant what?

- A) Study hall
- B) Leisure or spare time
- C) Writing place
- D) Teacher's house

10. The name 'kangaroo' is thought to have come from the Guugu Yimithirr word 'gangurru', which refers to what?

- A) A jumping animal
- B) A large black kangaroo
- C) A grass eater
- D) A fast runner

11. The word 'pyjama' comes from a Persian word that means what?

- A) Soft clothes
- B) Leg garment
- C) Sleep suit
- D) Night fabric

12. The word 'banana' is believed to have originated from an Arabic word that means what?

- A) Finger
- B) Yellow fruit
- C) Sweet bunch
- D) Soft skin

13. The English word 'orange' (the fruit) originally came from the Sanskrit word 'naranga', which means what?

- A) Golden ball
- B) Orange tree
- C) Bright skin
- D) Citrus scent

14. The word 'koala' is thought to come from an Indigenous Australian language meaning what?

- A) Tree climber
- B) No drink
- C) Sleepy animal
- D) Grey fur

15. The word 'paper' comes from the name of which ancient plant?

- A) Bamboo
- B) Papyrus
- C) Reed grass
- D) Cotton

16. The word 'taxi' is a shortened form of which word?

- A) Taximeter
- B) Transportation
- C) Traveler
- D) Taxicab

17. The word 'avocado' comes from the Aztec word 'ahuacatl', which literally translates to what?

- A) Green butter
- B) Testicle
- C) Tree pear
- D) Hard skin

18. The word 'igloo' comes from the Inuit word 'iglu', which simply means what?

- A) Ice house
- B) Winter home
- C) A house
- D) Small shelter

19. The word 'balloon' comes from an Italian word that means what?

- A) Big ball
- B) Floating toy
- C) Air sack
- D) Round shape

20. The word 'umbrella' comes from the Latin word 'umbra', which means what?

- A) Rain
- B) Shadow
- C) Shield
- D) Cover