

Etymology Basics

Etymology · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. What is the study of the origin of words called?

- A) Lexicography
- B) Phonetics
- C) Etymology**
- D) Semantics

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

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

3. Which language heavily influenced the English language, contributing many words related to law, government, and religion?

- A) Old Norse
- B) French
- C) German
- D) Latin**

4. The word 'salary' originates from the Latin word for what?

- A) Salt**
- B) Silk
- C) Sword
- D) Sand

5. Many English words, particularly scientific and medical terms, have roots in which two classical languages?

- A) Greek and Latin**
- B) Hebrew and Arabic
- C) Chinese and Japanese
- D) Sanskrit and Persian

6. The word 'robot' was first introduced to the world by which Czech writer in his play 'R.U.R.'?

- A) Franz Kafka
- B) Karel Capek**
- C) Milan Kundera
- D) Jaroslav Hasek

7. The word 'disaster' literally means what in its original Greek and Latin roots?

- A) Bad star**
- B) Evil wind
- C) Dark cloud
- D) Fallen moon

8. Which Germanic language had a significant impact on English vocabulary, especially during the Viking invasions?

- A) Dutch
- B) Swedish
- C) Old Norse**
- D) Gothic