

Exploring Word Origins

Etymology · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. The English word 'alphabet' is derived from the first two letters of which ancient language?

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

2. The word 'astronaut' comes from the Greek words 'astron' meaning star and 'nautes' meaning what?

- A) Pilot
- B) Sailor
- C) Explorer
- D) Traveler

3. Which language provided the root for the word 'school', originating from 'schole' meaning leisure or spare time?

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

4. The word 'bicycle' contains the prefix 'bi-', which comes from Latin and means what?

- A) Two
- B) Circle
- C) Wheel
- D) Speed

5. The word 'camera' originally comes from a Latin term that refers to what?

- A) A light box
- B) A vaulted chamber
- C) A glass lens
- D) A memory keeper

6. Many English words for animals, such as 'beef' and 'pork', were adopted into English from which language following the Norman Conquest?

- A) Old Norse
- B) Old French
- C) Latin
- D) Italian

7. The word 'biology' is formed from two Greek words: 'bios', meaning life, and 'logia', meaning what?

- A) Study of
- B) Growth of
- C) Nature of
- D) Science of

8. The English word 'pedestrian' comes from the Latin word 'pedis', which refers to what body part?

- A) Head
- B) Hand
- C) Foot
- D) Leg

9. The word 'telephone' is derived from the Greek 'tele', meaning far off, and 'phone', meaning what?

- A) Sound
- B) Wire
- C) Message
- D) Speak

10. The word 'galaxy' is derived from the Greek word 'galaxias', which literally translates to what?

- A) Star system
- B) Milky circle
- C) Light path
- D) Heavenly body

11. The word 'geometry' originates from Greek roots meaning what?

- A) Shape drawing
- B) Earth measurement
- C) Space study
- D) Angle calculation

12. In the word 'autograph', the prefix 'auto-' comes from Greek and means what?

- A) Hand
- B) Self
- C) Written
- D) Personal

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

- A) Rain
- B) Shadow
- C) Covering
- D) Sun

14. The word 'dentist' shares a Latin root with 'dental', which originates from 'dens', meaning what?

- A) Pain
- B) Doctor
- C) Tooth
- D) Jaw

15. The word 'pyjamas' is borrowed into English from which language?

- A) Hindi
- B) Persian
- C) Arabic
- D) Turkish

16. The word 'manuscript' is derived from Latin words meaning what?

- A) Paper bound
- B) Hand written
- C) Old record
- D) Ink drawing

17. The prefix 'micro-' found in words like 'microphone' and 'microscope' comes from Greek and means what?

- A) Small
- B) Clear
- C) Distant
- D) Precise

18. The word 'dinosaur' is a combination of two Greek words meaning what?

- A) Big lizard
- B) Terrible lizard
- C) Ancient beast
- D) Earth walker

19. The word 'planet' comes from the Greek word 'planetes', which means what?

- A) Wanderer
- B) Bright light
- C) Round object
- D) Great circle

20. The word 'captain' originates from the Latin word 'caput', which means what?

- A) Head
- B) Leader
- C) Ship
- D) Strength