



MAPLE RIDGE
MUSEUM

& COMMUNITY ARCHIVES



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**History
Analysis**

Etymology

Answer Key

A Brief Timeline of English

Match the dates with the events that shaped the English language

- The Battle of Hastings** - This battle led to the Norman conquest of England which in turn led to many French words being loaned into English. **1066 CE**
 - Angles, Saxons and Jutes arrive in England** - These were the Germanic people who brought their language (which would later become Early English) to England. **c. 400-500 CE**
 - The Vikings Invade** - The viking invasions led to some standardization of the English language and the borrowing of some Norse words. **c. 700-1000 CE**
 - Proto-Indo-European was likely spoken** - This is reconstructed language that is the hypothetical mother language of most languages spoken in Eurasia. **c. 2500 BCE**
 - The Great Vowel Shift** - This is a series of changes that happened in the pronunciation of English. **c. 1400-1700 CE**
 - The Romans Leave England** - As the Roman Empire was falling, the Roman retreated from England. **c. 410 CE**
 - Shakespeare** - Shakespeare is credited as being the first to record as many as 2000 words. It is likely that he also created many of these words. **1564-1616**
 - King James' Bible** - The first legal English language bible. Before this, all bibles had to be written in Latin. **1611**
 - Proto-Germanic was likely spoken** - Proto-Germanic is a reconstructed language that is the hypothetical mother language of English. **c. 500 BCE**
 - The Royal Society** - The royal society is a scientific society that is responsible for the creation of many scientific words found in English. **1660**
 - English Colonization** - English colonization is responsible for many loan words from languages spoken in the territories they colonized. **c. 1583-1914**
 - Canterbury Tales** - Canterbury tale is considered to be one of the first works written in Early Modern English. **1387-1400**
 - The Internet** - With new developments in technology, new words are created to explain it. **1983 CE**
 - The Gutenberg Press** - This press revolutionized the process of printing. This led to increased literacy and standardization of spelling. **1440 CE**
 - Webster's Dictionary** - One of the first widely published dictionaries. It contributed to the standardization of spelling in American English. **1828 CE**
- c. 2500 BCE
- c. 500 BCE
- c. 410 CE
- c. 400-500 CE
- c. 700-1000 CE
- 1066 CE
- 1387-1400 CE
- c. 1400-1700 CE
- c. 1440 CE
- 1564-1616 CE
- c. 1583-1914 CE
- 1611 CE
- 1660 CE
- 1828 CE
- 1983 CE

Almost Synonyms

For each pair of words, decide which ones have French origins and which ones have Germanic origins

There are many cases in the English language where two words that are more or less synonymous will give very different impressions. In many of these cases, the two words will come from different origins. Most words that are considered fancier or more refined have French origins and their synonyms with Germanic or Norse origins will be seem simpler by comparison. This is because early English was almost exclusively spoken by the lower classes and the upper classes spoke French. Over time, the words that the French speaking upper classes used bled into English but they still held the implications the wealth and prestige that is associated with the upper classes.

Synonyms	Norse/Germanic Origin	French Origin
Room/Chamber	Room (Germanic)	Chamber
Fraternal/Brotherly	Brotherly (Germanic)	Fraternal
Cow/Beef	Cow (Germanic)	Beef
Sheep/Mutton	Sheep (Germanic)	Mutton
Depart/Leave	Leave (Germanic)	Depart
Answer/Respond	Answer (Germanic)	Respond
Retain/Keep	Keep (Germanic)	Retain
Support/Help	Help (Germanic)	Support
Power/Strength	Strength (Germanic)	Power
Woods/Forest	Woods (Norse)	Forest
Art/Craft	Craft (Germanic)	Art
Friendly/Amiable	Friendly (Germanic)	Amiable
Enter/Come in	Come in (Germanic)	Enter
Buy/Purchase	Buy (Germanic)	Purchase
Blouse/Shirt	Shirt (Germanic)	Blouse

How Can Etymology Be Used As a Reading Tool?

Words are often made up of some combination of: prefixes, suffixes and roots. Learning to identify common patterns can help to identify the meanings of unfamiliar words . Add slashes (/) between the prefixes, suffixes and roots of the words. Note: Some words may not have all of these features.

1. Dis/appear

2. Dis/appear/ance

3. Re/visit

4. Over/worked

5. Mis/inform

6. De/value

7. Tran(s)/scribe

8. Anti/thesis

9. Co/operate

10. Inter/act

11. Hyper/infla/tion

12. In/compatib/ility

13. Neo/colon/ial/ism

14. Sub/divi/sion

15. Altera/tion

16. Re/formula/tion

17. Un/avoid/able

18. Im/matur/ity

19. Hypothe/tical

20. Implica/tion