



**BECOME A WORD DETECTIVE AND
ENRICH YOUR VOCABULARY**

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**LET'S START OUR
INVESTIGATION
INTO THE WORLD
OF WORDS**



PUZZLE 1: Word origins

Task. 1.1. The phrase „computer bug“ has been around for a long time, but was it created due to an incident involving a real insect? What do you think? Yes or no? Watch a video and check your answer.

Watch the OED video: *Was the first computer 'bug' a real insect?*

Find the video here: *Word origins*: Available from:
<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/explore/word-origins> (Viewed 20.03.2017)

Task 1.2. Find out about origin of the Word „bug“ in the dictionary of etymology.

Online Etymology Dictionary. Available from: <http://etymonline.com/>

PUZZLE 2: Foreign words in English

Sound is an ingredient of all poetry. The ingredient can occur in many forms, and rhythm does not necessarily mean scansion of rhyme.

Task 2.1 Listen to a sound poem with the words of Arabic origin.

Names make music

Arabic all, like

camphor, candy, coffee, kebab,
caravan, crimson, chemistry, haram,
gazelle, giraffe, guitar, salaam,
lemon, lime, tangerine, mimbar,

Names make music

Arabic all.

Task 2.2. Write a sound poem. with the words of different origin (e.g. Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Italian). Use the lists of English words by country or language of origin. Try to arrange the words so that they have rhythm and a sound pattern.

Words of Chinese origin: *bok choy, chop chop, chow, feng-shui, hanfu, kung fu, taipan, tofu, tong, tycoon, yang, yin, wushu, wuxia, wok*

Words of Russian origin: *balalaika, dacha, intelligentsia, karakul, kasha, pirog, samovar, taiga, troika, vodka, zakuska, babushka, kazachoc, kissel, kolkhoz, perestroika, pogrom,, samizdat, smetana, sputnik, taiga, talik, tokamak, vobla*

Words of Spanish origin: *chilli, chinchilla, adobe, flotilla, mantilla, amigo, bajada, cabana, canyon, corrida, copita, fiesta, estufa, monte, muleta, patio, pelota, ramada, rodeo, salsa, santerio, santero, tapas, tostada.*

Words of Italian origin: (19th century) *calando, cassano, contessa, fermata, granita, meno, mezzani, molto, mosso, pizza, pasta, salami, spaghetti, zucchetto,* (20th century) *capo, cappuccino, cibatta, dolce vita, espresso, frittata, graffiti, ma non troppo, marinara, penne, pepperoni, pesto, ristorante, terra rossa, tiramisu, vino ta tavola, viva, vita nuova*

Toolbox for further investigation

1. Delahunty, A. 2010. Oxford dictionary of Foreign Words & Phrases. OUP
2. Online Etymology Dictionary. Available from: <http://etymonline.com/>

Task 2.1. Match the words with the country or language of origin (Box A) and the meaning (Box B)

No	Foreign words in English	The country or language of origin	Meaning
1	disaster		
2	hazard		
3	nice		
4	muscle		
5	galactico		
6	addict		
7	jeans		
8	mortgage		
9	denim		
10	taboo		

A.

French, France, Greek, Italy, Latin, Spanish, Tongan

B.

a	“ death pledge”
b	a slave to anyone or anything
c	a person from another galaxy; in sport (especially in sport)- one of a team`s start players, especially an expensive signing
d	prohibited or restricted, especially by social custom
e	Late 17th century (as serge denim): from French serge de Nîmes, denoting a kind of serge from the town of Nîmes.
f	“little mouse”
g	means “ bad start”. The sense is astrological, of a calamity blamed on an unfavorable position of a planet
h	related to the place of origin, Genoa
i	game of chance played with dice
j	"careless, clumsy; weak; poor, needy; simple, stupid, silly, foolish,"

For further investigation

Watch a video: *25 Interesting and somewhat Strange Word Origins.*

Available from:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMtDBjI9L_s&t=1s

PUZZLE No 3: The irregularity of English spelling and pronunciation

Task 3.1. Can you read the most difficult pronunciation poem in the world?

To demonstrate the flavour of the poem, **the opening lines are:**

Dearest *creature in creation*
 Studying English pronunciation,
 I will teach you in my *verse*
 Sounds like *corpse, corps, horse* and *worse*.
 It will keep you. *Susy, busy*,
 Make your head with heat grow *dizzy*.
Tear in eye, your dress you`ll *tear*,
Queer, fair seer, hear my prayer

and the closing lines are:

Finally, which rhymes with *enough*,
Though, through, bough, cough, hough, sough, tough??
Hiccough has the sound of cup...
 My advice is: GIVE IT UP!

Task 3.2. Can you pronounce top 10 hardest words?

	Word	Meaning
10	brobdingnagian ,brɒbdɪŋ'nɑ:ɡiən	of huge size; gigantic
9	orthinolaryngologist	a specialist in the disorders of the ear or nose or throat
8	floccinaucinilipilification	estimating smth as worthless
7	Worcestershire 'wɜ:s tər ,ʃɪər, -ʃər	a county in the West Midlands of England.
6	sesquipedalian ,sɛs kwɪ pi'deɪ li ən,	characterized by long words; containing many syllbles
5	absquatulate (æb'skwɒtjʊ ,leɪt)	to leave in a hurry; to leave suddenly as from fa difficult or threatening situation:
4	bruschetta bru:'skɛtə; bru'ʃɛtə)	an Italian open sandwich of toasted bread topped with olive oil and tomatoes, olives, etc
3	pulchritudinous adj.	of people having incredible physical beauty
2	hipopotomonstrosquippedaliophobia	fear of long words
1	Woolfardisworthy 'wʊlzəri/	a village in the English county of Devon

Source: Top 10 hardest words to pronounce. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52napSzzuI8>

Toolbox for further research

1. Why is English Spelling Exceptionally Irregular? The English Spelling Society Available from: <http://spellingsociety.org/>
2. Snellen, W. *The Chaos*. Available from: <http://ncf.idallen.com/TheChaosPRETTY.pdf>

Videos

Pronunciation Poem.

Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-GDoVBIVeA>

PUZZLE 4: MISLEADING MEANINGS OF THE WORDS

(words that don't mean what they look like or what many people assume that they should mean)

Task. Choose the correct meaning of the word

1. Disinterested:

- a) a bad financial investment b) unbiased
- c) lacking a bank account d) bored
- e) lacking adequate rest

2. inflammable:

- a) easily set on fire b) unburnable c) not easily set on fire
- d) unbelieving e) calm

Toolbox for further research and practice

1. Get that words <http://getwords.com/>
2. Quizzes by categories <http://quiz.wordinfo.info/categories>
3. The image quizzes <http://quiz.wordinfo.info/?type=image>

PUZZLE 5: WORDS THAT ARE OLDER THAN WE THINK

Task 5.1.. geek , nerd, dork, freak, techie, weirdo

No	Which word (s) refer (s) to...	Answer
1	a person regarded as strange because of their unusual appearance and behaviour (even eccentric)?	
2	a person who is enthusiastic about technology (especially computers)	

No	Which word (s) refer (s) to...	Answer
3	a foolish or contemptible person who lacks social skills or is boringly studious.	
4	a socially inept person.	
5	a person who is an expert in particular field	
6	a person who is obsessed with a particular activity or interest, e.g. a fitness	
7	a knowledgeable and obsessive enthusiast (e. g a computer	
8	US slang term for a technical college student in 1960s	

Task 5.2.: cyber, LOL, text (verb) , unfriend

Fill in the table from the words from the box. Some words have two meanings.

Origin		1564, 1960, 1989, 1993, 1948, 13 th century, 2007
Meaning		Little Old Lady, Laughing Out Loud, Lots of Love; to cite texts, one who is not a friend or on friendly terms; an enemy'; remove (someone) from a list of friends or contacts on a social networking website'.

No	Word	Origin	Original meaning	Meaning now, the area of used since when
1	LOL			
2	text (v)			
4	unfriend (v)			
5	unfriend (n)			

PUZZLE 6. New words

The Open Dictionary is Macmillan's crowdsourced dictionary, where you can suggest new words and expressions to add. The Open Dictionary started in 2009, and since then more than 4000 new words and phrases have been added. About half of these new words have been "promoted" to become full entries in the Macmillan Dictionary.

Task: Who or what is:

troll factory, pepper, yuks, brinner, brain fade, outbrag, dad bad, paper suffler, unicorn factory, shareting

6.1. Use infographic to find the meaning of new words.

Begin the Open Dictionary Quiz here:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/open-dictionary/#quiz>

6.2. Search the meaning in Open dictionary:

Open Dictionary: <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>

PUZZLE 7: THE FUTURE OF ENGLISH

Watch videos on the Future of English:

1. History of English: ***Internet English (Part 9)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPltpdu9KGM>

2. History of English: ***Global English (Part 10)***

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70KHDbLmr_I&t=11s

3. David Crystal - ***Will English be always the Global language?***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Kvs8SxN8mc&t=49s>

4. Documentary: **English 3.0.**

<https://vimeo.com/111108854>

“Every time a new technology comes along, people think it’s the end of the road for the English language, and indeed sometimes for languages in general,” linguist and author David Crystal says in the film. But, he says, “the evidence is, for language, that every time a new technology arrives, it expands the expressive richness of the language in a way that wasn’t there before.”

Discussion: *Will English be always the Global language?*