**Etymology** - et·y·mol·o·gy - /ˌɛdəˈmælədʒi/  

**WHAT IS IT?**  

*noun*  
1. the study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history.  
   Example of use: "There is a decline of etymology as a linguistic discipline."  

2. the origin of a word and the historical development of its meaning.  
   ○ plural noun: etymologies  
   ○ synonyms  
      origin, development, derivation, source, root, etymon  

**EXAMPLES OF ETYMOLOGY:**  

1. **etymon** - ORIGIN OF ‘ETYMON’  
   1560–70; < Latin: the origin of a word < Greek étymon the essential meaning of a word seen in its origin or traced to its grammatical parts  
   (neuter of étymos true, actual, real)  

2. **English Word Information** on -ology, -logy, -ologist, -logist -  
   Greek: a suffix meaning: The -logy element basically means "the study of ____". ; to talk, to speak; a branch of knowledge; any science or academic field that ends in -ology which is a variant of -logy; a person who speaks in a certain manner; someone who deals with certain topics or subjects. (Click on link for more detailed information.)
3. **Word** - ORIGIN OF ‘WORD’
   before 900; Middle English, Old English; cognate with Dutch *woord*,
   German *Wort*, Old Norse *orth*, Gothic *waurd*; akin to OPruss *wirds*,
   Latin *verbum* ‘word’, Lithuanian *vařdas* ‘name’

4. **Football** - ORIGIN OF ‘FOOTBALL’
   First recorded in 1350–1400, football is from the Middle English word *fut ball*.
   See *foot*, *ball1*

**EXAMPLES OF Etymology Sentences** - A variety of sentence examples using the word ‘etymology’.

**RESOURCES FOR ETYMOLOGY STUDY:**

1. **Dictionary.com** - Type in a word and look for a section: ORIGIN OF WORD

2. **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** - Type in a word and look a section: History and Etymology for word; There is also a section on First Known Use

3. **American Heritage Dictionary** - Type in a word and look for a section right under the definitions that will give the etymology. This dictionary also has an extensive resources on word roots.
   See: Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:
   - *Indo-European Roots*
   - *Semitic Roots*
   The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our Dictionary of Indo-European Roots.
   The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2019 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

**Activity:** The Etymology of the English Alphabet
Have learners research the etymology of each of the letters in the English alphabet. It can be done online or if there is a set of encyclopedias available, each of the letters will have a section at the beginning on the origin of that letter.
GREEK AND LATIN ROOTS

Root Words, Roots and Affixes | Reading Rockets - List of common Greek and Latin roots.

Learn That Word - Resource for Greek and Latin roots for prefixes and suffixes