
Etymology - et·y·mol·o·gy - /ɪˈedəˈmäləjē/

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 *vardas* '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](#).

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Extension 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