

WORD HISTORIES

Sometimes dictionary entries include a short note explaining where the word originally came from. In *Chambers School Dictionary* these word histories come at the end of the entry in a blue box. At the end of the book you can also see a list of all the words that have a note about their history in the dictionary.

GUESS THE ORIGIN

Look at the following words and underline which origin you think is most likely to be true. You can check your answers in *Chambers School Dictionary*.

WORD	ORIGIN
<i>dandelion</i>	a) from the French phrase <i>dent de lion</i> meaning 'lion's tooth' b) from the word 'lion' because of its yellow colour
<i>Caesarean</i>	a) after Louis Caesar, a French doctor who first performed the operation b) after Julius Caesar who was said to be the first baby delivered by Caesarean
<i>badminton</i>	a) named after the Earl of Badminton who was a keen player b) game first played in its modern form at Badminton House
<i>spa</i>	a) after a town in Belgium famous for its spring water b) derived from the Latin word for 'spring'
<i>dahlia</i>	a) derived from the Greek word for 'large flowers' b) named after a Swiss botanist, Anders Dahl
<i>meander</i>	a) derived from the Latin word for 'deviate' b) after the winding Maeander river in Turkey
<i>bumph</i>	a) short for 'bum fodder', <i>ie</i> toilet paper b) shortened form of the Latin word for 'papers'
<i>wellingtons</i>	a) after the Duke of Wellington who wore boots like this b) after the town of Wellington where the boots were made

FROM WHICH LANGUAGE?

Look at the list of words below, and decide which language in the box you think the word comes from. You will need to use all the languages, and some of them more than once.

Greek	Latin	French
Swedish	Spanish	Malay
Irish Gaelic	Italian	

bureau _____

omnibus _____

zodiac _____

oboe _____

cyber- _____

fiasco _____

April _____

galore _____

armadillo _____

farce _____

castanets _____

equator _____

orang-utan _____

éclair _____

ombudsman _____

hippopotamus _____

In the box below, write any reasons that you had for choosing the language you did. Continue on the back of the sheet if necessary.