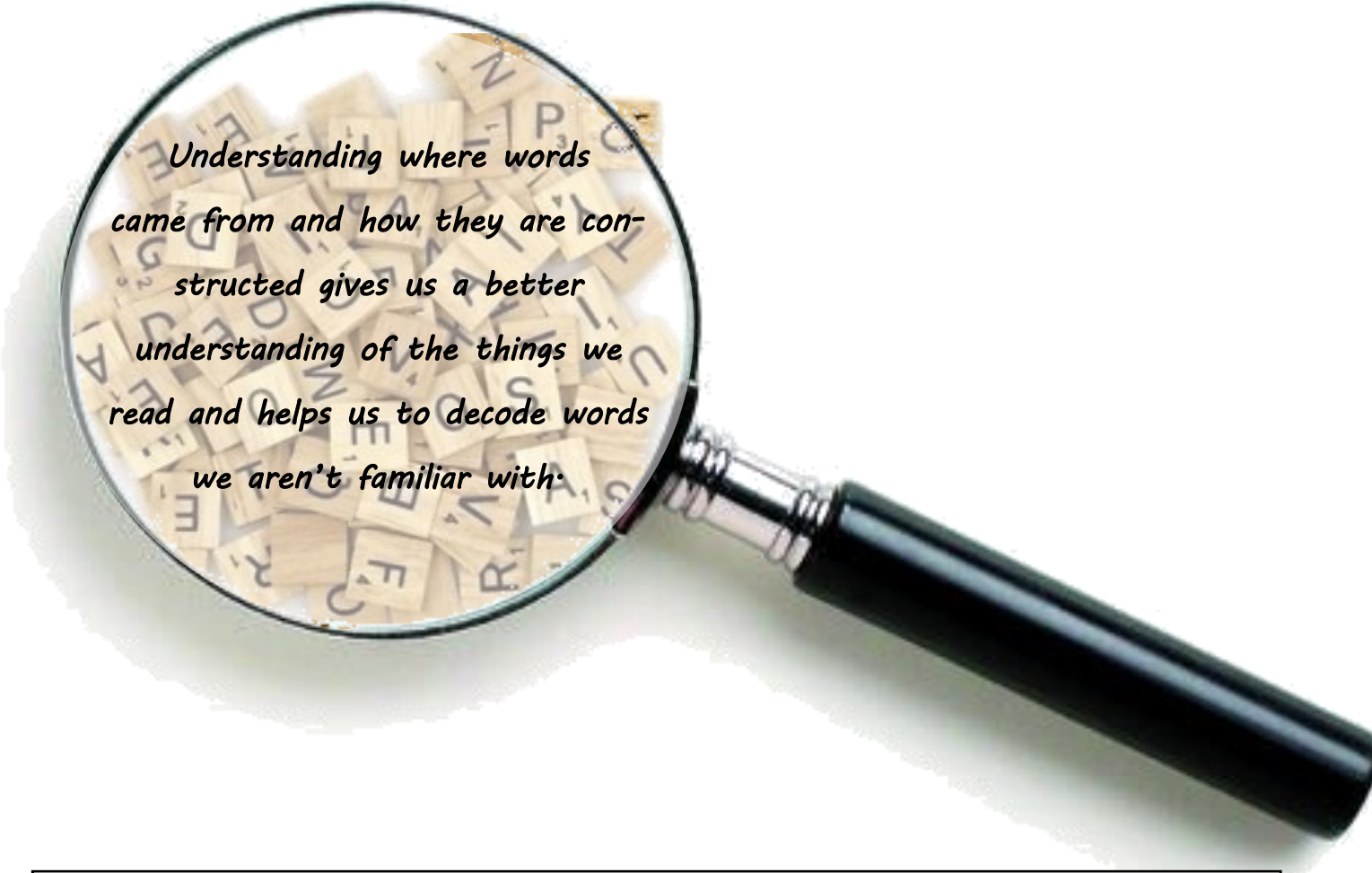


Year 7

Word Detectives



*Understanding where words
came from and how they are con-
structed gives us a better
understanding of the things we
read and helps us to decode words
we aren't familiar with.*

Name: _____ Form: _____

English Teacher: _____ Class room: _____



Key terms

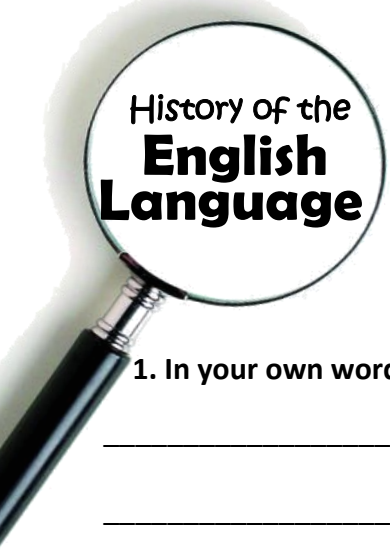
As you study this unit of work, you will learn the meaning of the words below. You should complete the definition and example section of the table when you find out the word's meaning.

Term	Definition	Example
Etymology	The study of the origin of words.	etymos - true meaning logos - study of
Morphology		
Root word		
Prefix		
Suffix		
Compound word		
Lexis		
Derivation		
Synonym		
Antonym		
Homonym		
Homophone		
Abbreviations		
Acronyms		



Key terms

Term	Definition	Example
Pseudonyms		
Eponyms		
Toponyms		
Demonym		
Idioms		
Proverbs		
Euphemisms		
Anagrams		
Palindromes		
Portmanteau		



Read the texts about the history of the English language and then complete the questions below.

History of the English Language

1. In your own words, describe the first stage of the development of English:

Old English

2. Did Old English look and sound like English today? _____

3. How many of our common words have roots in Old English? _____

4. What famous poem was written in Old English? _____

5. Have a look at the excerpt from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. List 10 words that you can identify as the same or similar to modern English:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

6. In your own words, describe the transition from Old English to Middle English.

Modern English

7. List three important things that happened in the 1500s to change the English language:

- _____
- _____
- _____

8. Before this, was there one 'correct' way to spell words? _____

9. When was the first dictionary published? _____

10. What is the difference between Early Modern and Late Modern English? _____

11. What two influences were important in creating new vocabulary for Late Modern English?

1. _____

2. _____

Varieties of English

12. Is British English or American English closer to the English Shakespeare spoke? _____

13. Do all 'Americanisms' actually come from America? _____. If not, where do they come from? _____

14. Why is American English so influential today? _____

15. English is a branch of the Germanic languages. What is Germanic a branch of? _____



Using the information you have read, create a time line of the key events and changes to the English Language. You can research the history in more detail, if you would like to. Organise your timeline clearly, making sure you have enough space for all the key events.

Numbers Greek and Latin

It is especially helpful to know the Latin and Greek numbers from one to ten. Lots of words start with these prefixes so make sure you learn them! For each prefix, find three words - two examples are done for you.

English	Latin	Examples word	Greek	Example words
One	Uni		Mono-	monologue monarch monocle
Two	Du- Bi-		Di-	
Three	Tri- Ter-	tricycle triangle tripod	Tri-	
Four	Quadr(i)-		Tetra	
Five	Quni(t)-		Penta	
Six	Sex-		Hex-	
Seven	Sep-		Hept-	
Eight	Oct-		Oct-	
Nine	Nov- Non-		Enne-	
Ten	Dec-		Deca-	



Prefixes are groups of letters or words that go at the front of a root word to change its meaning. Complete the table below, finding words for each prefix (Latin and Greek). The second task requires you to find the meaning of the prefix and example words using that prefix.

English	Latin	Example words	Greek	Example words
Above	Super, altra		Hyper	
Across	Trans		Dia	
Against	contra	contradict	Anti	
All	Omni		Pan	
Bad	Mal		Dys	
Before	Pre		Ante	
Both	Ambi		Amphi	
Half	Semi		Hemi	
Inside	Intra		Endo	
Many	Multi		Poly	
Self	Ego		Auto	
Through	Trans		Dia	
Under	Sub		Hypo	
Water	Aqua		Hydro	
With	Co-, com-, con-		Sym-, syn-	

	<i>Prefix meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>
Geo	_____	_____
Fract/frag/frail	_____	_____
De-	_____	_____
Dis-	_____	_____
En- / em-	_____	_____
Fore-	_____	_____
In- / im-	_____	_____
In / im- / il- / Ir-	_____	_____
Inter-	_____	_____
Mid-	_____	_____
Non-	_____	_____
Over-	_____	_____
Stud-	_____	_____
Un-	_____	_____
Under-	too little	underestimate, underdog, underage
Mis-	_____	_____
Pre-	_____	_____
Post-	_____	_____



Suffixes

Suffixes are groups of letters or words that go at the end of a root word to change its meaning. Identify the suffix of each word and then look up what it means. There is space for you to try and come up with 5 of your own words using different suffixes.

Word	Suffix	Meaning of suffix
Affordable, sensible		
Archeology		
Geography		
Universal		
Golden		
Teacher, professor		
Taller		
Tallest		
Helpful		
Poetic		
Helpless		
Friendship		
Babyish		
Biologist		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		



You are going to investigate the etymology of ten words.

1. Complete the table below, finding out the origin and the meaning of the root word. Draw your tree, including this information at the root.
2. Think of or look up at least 5 words that have this root word in them. Write these in the trunk of the tree.
3. Choose 3 words and put them on the branches of your tree, including their meaning, etymology and, if possible, a sentence using the word.

Sarah could not wait to be her year's Valedictorian.

Valedictorian

Deliver of leavers' speech in USA school.
Vale = farewell; Dict = speak

contradict

Speak against, oppose
Contra = against; dict = speak

The CCTV footage contradicted the robber's story.

Dictaphone

Voice recorder
Dict = speak; phone = voice, sound

The journalist turned on her Dictaphone to record the interview.

Verdict
predict
dictate
contradict
Dictaphone
dictator
valedictorian

-dict

Latin: to say or speak

Root word	Origin	Meaning
dict-	Latin	To say or speak (e.g. dictate, contradict)
-phobia		
hydr-		
bene-		
vis-		
-mand		
-onym		
port		
phon		
tract		
-scribe		



Mythology

Lots of the words in the English language contain links to mythical characters. For each word, you need to name the character and then research how the name has contributed to the meaning of the word. The first one is done for you as an example.

Word	Mythological character	How the word links to the character
titan / titanic	Titans	The Titans were children of Heaven and Earth and members of a race of giants. It means a person or thing of enormous size or ability.
atlas		
music		
typhoon		
heroine		
tantalise		
nemesis		
herculean		
mentor		
harpy		

**Initialisms,
abbreviation
and
acronyms**

Read the definition in each box below, then work out which words at the bottom of the page are abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms and write them in the box. Write the full version of the abbreviation on the line provided.



Abbreviations are any shortened form of a word.
Oct, etc.

Acronyms are a type of abbreviation made from the first letter (or letters) of a string of words but are pronounced as if they were words themselves:

YOLO, NATO, NASA

Initialisms are a type of abbreviation made from the first letter (or letters) of a string of words, but can't be pronounced as words themselves:

CIA, FYI, PR

Nimby _____

OMG _____

SWAT _____

PM _____

AM _____

U.K. _____

Aids _____

Awol _____

TBA _____

Sonar _____

FYI _____

CD _____

PIN _____

GMT _____

FAQ _____

LED _____

Scuba _____

RSVP _____

POTUS _____

ETA _____

UNICEF _____

BBC _____

CEO _____

DR _____

ASAP _____

ET AL. _____

DNA _____

E.G. _____

I.E. _____

SEPT _____



**Changes
to the
English
Language**

Read the text on new words being added to the English language and try to think of as many words you use that your parents or grandparents don't understand or that you both use but have a different meaning. Write the words down and explain what you mean when you use them and what your parents/grandparents mean when they say them. Give an example in a sentence.

WORD 1: sick

What I mean: something is really cool, amazing. For example, 'The trick was totally sick'.

What my (grand)parents mean: illness, not very ill, sick (vomiting) For example, 'My brother has been off school because he's sick.'

WORD 2: _____

What I mean: _____

What my (grand)parents mean: _____

WORD 3: _____

What I mean: _____

What my (grand)parents mean: _____

WORD 4: _____

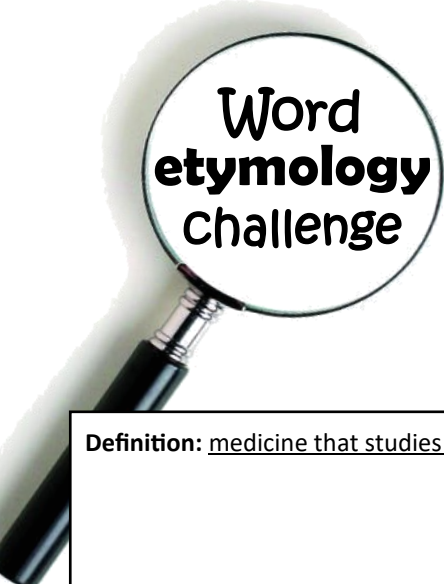
What I mean: _____

What my (grand)parents mean: _____

WORD 5: _____

What I mean: _____

What my (grand)parents mean: _____



Word etymology Challenge

Now you have learnt about root words, prefixes and suffixes, you need to try and work out what these words mean. Break the word up into its parts and then explain what each part means. You can use your tablets to look this information up.

Definition: medicine that studies the heart

cardiology

From Greek word 'logia' meaning study of, science

From Greek word 'kardia' meaning heart

Synonyms: heart surgeon, heart specialist

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

bibliography

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

anonymous

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

misunderstand

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

thermometer

Synonyms: _____

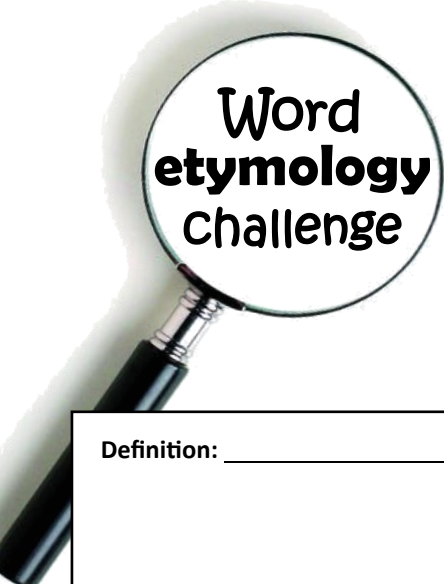
Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

telegraph

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____



**Word
etymology
Challenge**

The following are good websites that might help you with your research:

<https://www.etymonline.com/>

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/>

Definition: _____

triathlon

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

philanthropist

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

decapitate

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

subordinate

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

aquamarine

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____

Definition: _____

pseudonym

Synonyms: _____

Antonyms: _____



Proverbs

Proverbs: a popular well-known saying that contains advice.

Below is a list of proverbs. Next to each one, write down what it means. Can you think of any more proverbs that are used in the English language?

A bad workman always blames his tools. _____

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. _____

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. _____

Actions speak louder than words. _____

All that glitters is not gold. _____

An idle brain is the devil's workshop. _____

As you sow, so you shall reap. _____

Barking dogs seldom bite. _____

Don't bite the hand that feeds you. _____

Two wrongs don't make a right. _____

The pen is mightier than the sword. _____

Fortune favours the bold. _____

No man is an island. _____

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. _____

Keep your friends close and your enemies closer. _____

The early bird catches the worm. _____

You can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs. _____

A watched pot never boils. _____

One man's trash is another man's treasure. _____

Don't put all your eggs in one basket. _____

The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill. _____

You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. _____

Don't count your chickens before they hatch. _____



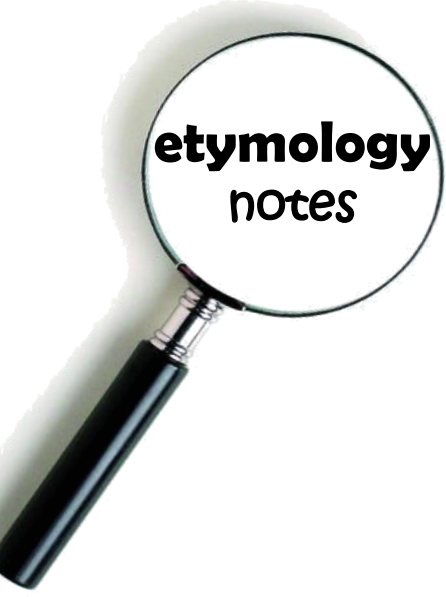
Idioms

Idioms: a phrases that has a different meaning from the actual meaning of the words

Below is a list of idioms. Next to each one, write down what it means. Can you think of any more idioms that are used in the English language?

- It's raining cats and dogs. _____
- Cross your fingers _____
- Fell on deaf ears _____
- Get cold feet _____
- Giving the cold shoulder _____
- Have a change of heart _____
- Different kettle of fish _____
- Can of worms _____
- I'm all ears _____
- It cost an arm and a leg _____
- Cool as a cucumber _____
- A grey area _____
- Add fuel to the fire _____
- Call it a day _____
- Down to the wire _____
- In hot water _____
- Miss the boat _____
- See eye to eye _____
- Play it by ear _____
- A bull in a china shop _____
- Cry crocodile tears _____
- Stir the hornet's nest _____
- Make a mountain out of a mole hill _____

What is the difference between a proverb and an idiom? _____



etymology
notes