

# The Unique Nature of English

(Links at end of lesson)

1. The English language has had a most unusual history, having been subjected over the centuries (like the British Isles themselves) to \_\_\_\_\_. (4 words)
2. English is magnificently supplied with the raw material of words, often having several synonyms \_\_\_\_\_. (4 words)
3. The grammatical structure of the language is \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word)
4. List the four categories of Anglo-Saxon words which we use today:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ (prepositions, conjunctions, articles) – 3 words
  - B. the most common, everyday \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ – 3 words
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ (1, 2, 10, 100, etc.) – 2 words
  - D. words for \_\_\_\_\_ of daily life – 2 words
5. Not all Anglo-Saxon vocabulary is limited to words of \_\_\_\_\_. (4 words)
6. Alongside this huge stock of native words, one finds at least an equal number of \_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_ loan-words. (1 word each)
7. Words such as *area*, *focus*, *actor*, *index*, *forum*, *consensus*, *data*, *item*, *video*, *referendum* are spelled exactly as they were in the \_\_\_\_\_. (4 words total, 3 proper nouns)
8. As a general rule, words of this type (Latin-based) tend to be longer than their Anglo-Saxon fellows, and they may often be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word each)
9. Give the four examples listed in the article of words relating to question 8. (1 word each)
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Unless we have some knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_, these big words may strike us as exotic aliens, polysyllabic and obscure. (2 words)
11. When they are used \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Latin and Greek loan-words can vastly enrich our speech and writing. (1 word each)
12. Latin and Greek loan-words can vastly enrich our speech and writing in three ways:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ (5 words)
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ (9 words)
  - C. or \_\_\_\_\_ (8 words)
13. Unfortunately, the classical vocabulary in English is particularly subject to abuse by \_\_\_\_\_ (1 word), \_\_\_\_\_ (1 word), and \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words).
14. There are those who avoid plain language in order to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 word) or \_\_\_\_\_ (3 words).
15. Synonyms that offer more scholarly, polite, or devious alternatives for ordinary concepts are known as \_\_\_\_\_. (2 words)

16. Expressions that stem from a desire to cloak ugly or embarrassing concepts in less offensive language are known as \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word)

17. Give the Latin equivalent to the Anglo-Saxon words listed below:

<b>balls</b>		<b>to shit</b>	
<b>begin</b>		<b>smell</b>	
<b>to break</b>		<b>to spit</b>	
<b>to chew</b>		<b>stitch</b>	
<b>to drool</b>		<b>to sweat</b>	
<b>to end</b>		<b>womb</b>	
<b>to piss</b>		<b>work</b>	

18. Almost all our English swear words are \_\_\_\_\_. (1 hyphenated word)

19. As a class, learned variants cannot be given blanket approval or condemnation; their appropriateness depends on \_\_\_\_\_. (5 words)

20. The English language has often adapted \_\_\_\_\_ to fill an obvious need, where a simple Germanic noun has no suitable adjectival form. (2 words, 1 is a proper noun)

21. To find an English word that means “full of work” or “involving work,” we must resort to the Latin-derived adjective \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word)

22. Two Germanic words (nouns or verbs) which relate to odor: \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (8 letters)

23. In relation to question 22, a Latin-base word \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters); a Greek-based word \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters).

24. In relation to question 22, definition – has a pleasing aroma, \_\_\_\_\_; – having a distinctive odor, \_\_\_\_\_.

25. Give the Latin adjectives to these Germanic nouns:

<b>earth</b>		<b>sky</b>	
<b>moon</b>		<b>sun</b>	

26. \_\_\_\_\_ and space \_\_\_\_\_ would be lost without the Latin forms. (1 word each)

27. **Definitions:**

A. of or relating to the earth or its inhabitants:

B. worldly, mortal, mundane:

C. abounding in sunshine:

D. related to or proceeding from the sun:

28. Of the 20,000 most common words in English, approximately \_\_\_\_\_ are derived from \_\_\_\_\_, either \_\_\_\_\_ or through \_\_\_\_\_. A much lower number can be traced back to \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word each)

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29. The plain and simple Germanic words are \_\_\_\_\_ . (4 words)

30. Any writer whose Latin word frequency is above \_\_\_\_\_ % is likely to be writing \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ English. (1 word/number each)

**31.** Complete the children's nursery rhyme.

Humpty Dumpty sat \_\_\_\_\_,  
Humpty Dumpty had \_\_\_\_\_;  
All the King's \_\_\_\_\_, and all the King's \_\_\_\_\_  
Couldn't put Humpty \_\_\_\_\_.



35. In the great tradition of plain English style, best represented by \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) or \_\_\_\_\_ (3 words) of the Bible, Latin vocabulary is about as infrequent as in \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words).

36. Find the Latin-based words in the text of Psalms 23. The definitions are given in the order in which the words appear. (ME = Middle English; OF = Old French; L = Latin) **Write the English words exactly as they appear in the text** (in Early Modern English form).

- A. ME → OF (pastora) =
- B. ME → OF (restorer) =
- C. ME → OF (valee) =
- D. ME → OF (conforter) =
- E. ME → OF (preparer) =
- F. ME → OF → L (tabula, meaning "board") =
- G. OF → L (praesentia) =
- H. ME → OF → L (inimicus) =
- I. ME → OF (enoint, past part. of enoidre) =
- J. ME → OF → L (oleum) =
- K. ME → OF → Medieval L (merces) =

37. In this clear and beautiful piece of English prose, the Latin frequency is \_\_\_\_% (\_\_\_\_ words out of \_\_\_\_\_) — almost identical to that of our nursery rhyme. (1 number each space)

38. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words, proper noun), who was still alive when the King James Bible was published, had a similar preference for \_\_\_\_\_ (3 words, 1 is hyphenated), despite his enormous \_\_\_\_\_ (1 word).

39. From question 38, \_\_\_\_\_ is a Latin-based word meaning “unusual, huge, monstrous”.

40. \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words, proper noun) (1628-1688) was profoundly influenced by the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words).

41. What famous literary work is the above-mentioned author famous for? (2 words)

42. Complete the text from opening paragraph of John Bunyan's book.

As I walked through the \_\_\_\_\_ of this world, I \_\_\_\_\_ a certain place where was a den, and I laid me down in that place \_\_\_\_\_: and, as I slept, I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and behold I saw a man \_\_\_\_\_, standing in a certain place, with his face from his \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand, and a great \_\_\_\_\_ upon his back. I looked, and saw him open the book and \_\_\_\_\_; and, as he read, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_; and not being \_\_\_\_\_ longer to \_\_\_\_\_, he brake out with a \_\_\_\_\_, saying, "What shall I \_\_\_\_\_?"

43. In the above paragraph, the Latin frequency is exactly \_\_\_\_%.

44. In the above paragraph, John Bunyan used only 11 Latin-based words; however, three of them are repeats. Find the eight Latinate words based on the clues given below. These clues are NOT in the same order as the words. (OE = Old English; ME = Middle English; OF = Old French; VL = Vulgar Latin; L = Latin) The ENGLISH words (the answers) are in alphabetical order.

A. ME → OF → L (habilis) =

B. ME → OF → VL (certanus) =

C. ME → OF (contenir) =

D. ME → OF → VL (critare) =

E. ME → OF → VL (facia) =

F. ME → OF → L (lamentabilis) =

G. ME → OE → OF → Medieval L (placea) =

H. ME → OF (trembler) =

45. The great nineteenth-century stylist mentioned herein is \_\_\_\_\_. (3 words)

46. Not the \_\_\_\_\_ which we have read, but that to which we return, with the greatest \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the genuine \_\_\_\_\_, and claims the name of essential \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word each)

47. In the form of this 19<sup>th</sup> century stylist, the combined frequency of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ vocabulary is \_\_\_\_%. (1 word or number each)

48. You may find even higher frequencies in a modern textbook or technical treatise. Here, for example, is a \_\_\_\_\_ that appeared in a recent national publication. (2 words)

49. At a whopping \_\_\_\_\_ % frequency (23 words out of 52), the passage proves that Latin and Greek \_\_\_\_\_ are alive and well in \_\_\_\_\_ English. (1 word or number each)

50. Precise and unusual Latin words will be far more effective if they are met in \_\_\_\_\_. (3 words, 1 is hyphenated)

51. If you have even the most \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) about the history of western civilization, you will be aware of the crucial role played by ancient \_\_\_\_\_ (1 word) and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 word).

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52. It was in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the eastern Mediterranean, about 2,500 years ago, that many fundamental aspects of western culture had their origin. (2 words, 1 is hyphenated)

53. The Greeks virtually invented \_\_\_\_\_ (from **monarchy** to **tyranny** to **democracy**). (1 word)

54. The Greeks gave us \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ poetry. (1 word each)

55. The Greeks excelled in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word each)

56. Following the conquests of Alexander the Great (356-323 BC), \_\_\_\_\_ spread throughout the Near and Middle East. (3 words)

57. Four hundred years later, Greek would be the \_\_\_\_\_ in which the Christian apostles brought their message to the west. (1 word)

58. Although the language of modern Athens is a far cry from that of Aristotle or St. Paul, Greek has not changed out of \_\_\_\_\_ in over two millennia. (2 words)

59. By the first century of the Christian era, the \_\_\_\_\_ extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Black Sea, from Egypt to the British Isles. (3 words)

60. Latin, once merely a \_\_\_\_\_ (3 words) in and around the city of Rome, had become the spoken and written language for most of what is today \_\_\_\_\_. (2 words).

61. In those areas where the use of Latin had become well established over centuries of empire, regional dialects of Latin evolved into new and distinct vernacular languages, including \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. (1 word each)

62. Many Greek words would eventually come into English only because they had been borrowed by \_\_\_\_\_. (3 words)

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/greeklatinroots/chapter/5-unique-nature-english/>

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/greeklatinroots/chapter/3-why-latin-and-greek/>

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