

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:

balls		to shit	
begin		smell	
to break		to spit	
to chew		stitch	
to drool		to sweat	
to end		womb	
to piss		work	

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:

earth		sky	
moon		sun	

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 _____.



32. Latin derivatives are not all _____ and _____ (1 word each)
33. The Latin word *vallum* is what word?
34. What are the three non-Germanic words in the nursery rhyme, Hey, Diddle, Diddle? (List them in the order that they appear in the verse.)
 Latin (*cattus*) = _____ Old French (*desport*) = _____ Greek (*diskos*) = _____
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).

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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 19th 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)

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