

The English Language Trivia Quiz



1. You may have seen this sentence somewhere before – “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.”

This is an example of a “pangram” sentence, a sentence that uses every letter in the English alphabet. This sentence is often used to test k _____ (plural form).

2. A word formed by joining together parts of existing words is called a “blend” (or, less commonly, a “_____ word”). Many new words enter the English language in this way. Examples are “brunch” (breakfast + lunch); “motel” (motorcar + hotel); and “guesstimate” (guess + estimate).

a) wallet b) purse c) case d) portmanteau



3. There are meaningless verbal tics that we pronounce when we are looking for something to say. These include words such as “well”, “you know”, “basically”, etc. They are called _____ words.

a) cane b) crutch c) pole d) prop

4. The original name for “b_____” was flutterby.

5. The word “_____” originally comes from an Old English phrase meaning “god be with you”.



6. In 1945, Grace Hopper of Harvard University was working on a malfunctioning computer and found a moth in the circuits which had caused the computer to break down. Since then, the term “_____” refers to a computer problem, especially software.

7. Because of errors there are, in some dictionaries, words that don't exist, for example: “irregardless”. They are called _____ words.

a) shade b) phantom c) ghost d) poltergeist

8. For the first time ever, the Oxford English Dictionary’s (OED) word of the year 2022 was left to the public to decide. Over 340,000 people participated, with ‘g_____ m_____’ receiving 93% of the total votes. The OED defines it as “a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations”.

