Reading
Lost Meanings



English__on_the_go

Carefully read the text and match the gaps (17-22) with the correct sentence parts (a-h). There are two extra options you don't need to use.

Have you ever wondered 17) _____? Some of them have travelled a long way through time, and their original meanings might surprise you.

Take the word 'school', for example. We often think of it as a place of rules, homework, and tests — but the word actually comes from the Ancient Greek 'scholé', which meant "leisure." Yes, really! Learning was once considered something people did 18) _____.

Another surprising word is 'nice'. Today, being nice means being kind and friendly. But hundreds of years ago, if someone called you "nice," they were calling you foolish! It originally came from a Latin word 19)_____. Luckily, the meaning changed — otherwise, compliments would be very confusing.

Then there's 'disaster', a word we use for earthquakes, storms, and other terrible events. But did you know it comes from the Greek words 'dis' and 'aster', meaning "bad star"? People once believed that bad things happened because the stars 20) _____ . So if something went wrong, they blamed the sky!

Even the word 'idiot' has a story. In Ancient Greece, an 'idiotēs' wasn't 'stupid' — it was simply someone 21)_____ . They focused only on their private affairs and avoided politics. So originally, being called an idiot just meant you preferred staying out of the spotlight.

Finally, there's 'persona'. We use it to describe someone's image or personality. But the word started as the name for a mask 22) _____ . It reminds us that sometimes, what people show to the world is just a mask — not always their true self.

So next time you use a simple word, think twice. It might carry a story older than you think. Language is alive, and every word is a little time machine.

A	*worn by actors in Ancient Rome;*
B	*how did all the languages appear;*
C	*who didn't take part in public life;*
D	*in their spare time because they loved it;*
E	*that actually meant "ignorant";*
F	*where our everyday words come from;*
G	*was meant to hide real feelings;*
H	*were not aligned properly.*