

Unit 5 Words The origins of English

Do you notice anything special about the words below?

• Rhythm • Orange • Bookkeeper • Scissors • Queue • Madam	This word only exists in the plural form. If you take the last four letters away from this word, it still sounds exactly the same. This word is the same if you read it backwards. There are no words which rhyme with this word. This word has three sets of double letters. This word is the longest word in the English language with no vowels.
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1. Study the words below. What do you think they mean? What is their origin?
Read the article and compare your ideas.

Manga	Meaning: Origin:
Embiggen	Meaning: Origin:
Cyberbully	Meaning: Origin:

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Chillax	Meaning: Origin:
Latte	Meaning: Origin:
Floordrobe	Meaning: Origin:
Soz	Meaning: Origin:

STRATEGY

Skipping words that you do not understand

You can often skip unknown words and phrases when you read. This is because you do not have to know the meaning of every word or phrase in order to understand the general meaning of a text. When you come across an unknown word, follow these steps.

- 1 Decide if you can understand the general meaning of the sentence without understanding the meaning of the word. If the answer is 'yes', skip the word and continue reading. If the answer is 'no', go to point 2.
- 2 Check if you can guess the meaning from the context. If the answer is 'yes', guess and continue reading. If the answer is 'no', go to point 3.
- 3 Use a dictionary to help you or ask a classmate or the teacher.

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2 Read the strategy Then read sentences A-F. Follow points 1-3 in the strategy for the underlined words.

- A The TV show *The Simpsons* has concocted several new words, and one in particular is gaining in popularity.
- B Words that have been used for aeons as one part of speech often start to crop up as a different part of speech.
- C The thirteenth-century meaning of *kill* was *hit*, but its meaning has become stronger over time through a process known as hyperbole.
- D Abbreviations and acronyms also become informal words in their own right.
- E Other words are adopted even when there's an existing English alternative, because the foreign word sounds superior or more sophisticated in some way.
- F This new meaning is now so ubiquitous that no one today thinks of it as a metaphor.

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3 Read the article "Words. Words. Words." Complete the article with sentences A-F in Exercise 2.

4 Write the summary of the text – SB P. 56-57