

Language Origins

Language of Origin	Features of Words	Examples
Anglo-Saxon	short, one-syllable words, sometimes compounded; use of vowel teams, silent letters, digraphs, diphthongs in spelling; words for common, everyday things; irregular spellings	sky, earth, moon, sun, water, sheep, dog, horse, cow, hen, head, arm, finger, toe, heart, shoe, shirt, pants, socks, coat, brother, father, mother, sister, hate, love, think, want, touch, does, were, been, would, do
Norman French	ou for /ū/; soft c and g when followed by e , i , y ; special endings such as -ine , -ette , -elle , -ique ; words for food and fashion, abstract social ideas, relationships	amuse, cousin, cuisine, country, peace, triage, rouge, baguette, novice, justice, soup, coupon, nouvelle, boutique
Romance	multisyllabic words with prefixes, roots, suffixes; content words for social sciences, traditional physical and biological sciences, and literature	firmament, terrestrial, solar, stellar, aquarium, mammal, equine, pacify, mandible, extremity, locomotion, paternal, maternity, designate, hostility, amorous, contemplate, delectable, deception, reject, refer, et cetera, versus
Greek	spellings ph for /f/, ch /k/, and y for /ĭ /; constructed from combining forms, similar to English compounds; scientific, philosophical, and mathematical terminology	hypnosis, agnostic, neuropsychology, decathlon, catatonic, agoraphobia, chlorophyll, physiognomy, entomology, etymology, apostrophe

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