

# Words, where do they come from?

The origin (or **etymology**) of a word is often given at the end of a dictionary entry.

**alligator** *NOUN* **alligators**  
 a large reptile of the crocodile family.  
 [from Spanish *el lagarto* = the lizard]

Knowing a word's origin helps you to understand and remember its meaning. It also shows you how English has evolved and borrowed from other languages, e.g 'algebra' is from Arabic, 'mammoth' from Russian, and 'bungalow' from Hindi.



## GETTING STARTED

Match up each word with its origin.

bread

cake

cereal

cheese

chocolate

coffee

cream

liquorice

tea

from Ceres, the Roman goddess of farming

from Old French

from Old English

from a Scandinavian language

via French or Spanish from Nahuatl (a Central American language)

via Dutch from Chinese

from Arabic *kahwa*

from Greek *glykys* = sweet + *rhiza* = root

from Old English, taken from Latin



## MOVING ON

Look up these words to find out their origins and meanings.

WORD	LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN	ORIGINAL MEANING
bangle		
treacherous		
deadline		
derrick		
rebuff		
juggernaut		
mayday		
nausea		
origami		
robot		

How many did you get right?

10 = NOVICE

20 = EXPERT

30 = MAESTRO