

New Words

Some words are very old: they go so far back that no one can be sure of their exact origins. But some words have come into our language quite recently.

1 Look up the word **chauvinism**. What did it mean originally, and what does it mean now? What is the approximate age of the word?

two hundred years five hundred years a thousand years

2 Here is a modern English word that was made by combining two existing words. What are the words that have been combined?

smog

Can you think of some other words that have been formed in this way?

3 Some words are shortenings of older or longer words. What are the full versions of these?

bus

taxi

bike

fridge

zoo

Discussion

4 The following words name or describe modern objects. Try to find out, or guess, how each of these words originated.

slot machine hamburger T-shirt high-rise
turnstile torpedo disco barbecue