



EVERYDAY ETYMOLOGY

*EXPLORING THE RICH HISTORY
OF EVERYDAY WORDS*

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3.1 SPRING

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**Root origin is *spreng-* meaning
'to move, hasten, spring.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**spring fever (1843) – a romantic
feeling
spring cleaning (1843)
spring chicken (1780) – a young
person
spring-house
springboard**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From the Old English word *springan*
meaning 'to leap, burst forth, fly up;
spread, grow.'**

**In the 14th century, the season was
referred to as 'springing time.'**



3.2 BLOOM

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

Root origin is *bhel-* meaning 'to thrive, bloom.'

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**bloomers (1730) – trousers that appear to 'bloom'
abloom (1855) – a state of blooming
blast
blow
inflate**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

From Old Norse *blomi* meaning 'flower, blossom' and Old Saxon *blomo*.

Also from the Old English words *bloma* meaning 'a state of great beauty' and *blowan* meaning 'to flower.'



3.3 BLOSSOM

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

Root origin is *bhel-* meaning 'to thrive, bloom' (same as bloom).

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

blade
bleed
floral
florist
flourish
flower

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

The Old English word for 'a flower of a plant' was *blostm* or *blostma*.

'Blossom' is the native word, but the word 'bloom' (from Old Norse) and flower (from French) are more widely used.



3.4 FRESH

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

The Germanic root *frisko-* is the source of the Italian and Spanish word *fresco*.

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**fresh-water
freshness
afresh
freshen
frisk**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

Introduced in the 1200s as *fresh* and *fersh* meaning 'unsalted; pure; sweet; eager.'

Also from Old English *fersc*, Old Frisian *fersk*, Dutch *vers* and German *frisch*.



3.5 CRISP

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**Root origin is *sker-* meaning
'to turn, bend.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**circle
circuit
circus
crown
curve**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From the Latin word *crispus*
meaning 'curled, wrinkled, having
curly hair' and Old English *crisp*
meaning 'curly, crimped, wavy.'**

**The meaning of 'chill' as in the air
was introduced in 1869.**



3.6 DAFFODIL

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The initial d- in 'daffodil' may
come from the Dutch *de affodil*
(joining the two words).**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**lily
flower
yellow
Narcissus
bulbous
amaryllis**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From Middle English *affodill* and
Latin *asphodelus*.**

**The word *Lent-lily* is another
form of the word that was
introduced in 1827.**



3.7 TULIP

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel** asks...



**What are the
root words?**

Tulip is originally from the Turkish word *tulbent* meaning 'turban' from the resemblance of the shape of the flower to a turban.

**Captain
Connector** asks...



**Which words
are related?**

Tulip tree (1705) is a North American magnolia that is named for its tulip-shaped flowers.

**Doctor
Derivation** asks...



**What's the
word history?**

Tulip is also from German and Dutch *tulpe*, Italian *tulipano*, Spanish *tulipan* and French *tulipe*.



3.8 RAIN

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The root origin is *reg-* meaning
'moist, wet.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**rain dance (1867)
rain date (1948)
rain-shower
irrigate**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From Middle English *rein* and Old
English *regn* meaning 'descent
of water in drops through the
atmosphere.'**



3.9 EASTER

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The root origin is *aus-* meaning
'to shine.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**Easter egg (1825)
Easter bunny (1904)
Australia
Aurora
east
eastern**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From the Old English word
Easterdaeg.**

**Other languages use a variant of
the Latin word *Pascha* to name
the Easter holiday (of or
pertaining to Passover).**



3.10 GREEN

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The root origin is *ghre-* meaning
'to grow.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**green cheese (late 14th century)
meaning new or fresh which
relates to the story told to children
'the moon is made of cheese'
green thumb
greenroom**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From Old English *grene* meaning
'the colour of living plants.'**



3.11 SUNSHINE

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The root origin of 'sun' is *sawel-*
meaning 'the sun.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**solstice
solarium
south
Sunday
solar**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From Old English *sunnanscīma*
meaning 'sunshine' and *sunscīn*
meaning 'a mirror.'**



3.12 BUTTERFLY

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The root origin of 'butter' is
gwou- meaning 'ox, bull, cow.'**

**The root origin of 'fly' is *pleu-*
meaning 'to flow.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**The butterfly swimming stroke
was introduced in 1935.
'Butterflies' as in feeling nervous
was introduced in 1908.**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From the Old English word
butorfleoge.**

**Possibly named because of the
pale yellow colour of many
species' wings.**



3.13 LAMB/LAMBING

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The 'b' in the word 'lamb' has
been silent since the 13th
century.**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**lambkin – 'little lamb'
In Old English, 'lamb' referred to a
gentle or innocent person.**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From the Old English word *lamb*,
lomb.**

**Also from Old Norse and Old
Saxon *lamb*, Middle Dutch *lam*
and German *lamm*.**



3.14 CHICK/CHICKEN

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

The root origin is *keuk-* relating to the sound that a chicken makes.

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

Generic words for 'chicken' tend to be other uses for the word 'hen.'

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

From the Old English word *cicen*.

Interestingly, by regular sound changes, the word should be 'chichen' in modern English. The reason for the current spelling (ck) is unknown.



3.15 NEW/ NEWNESS

#EverydayEtymology

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

**The root origin is *newo-*
meaning 'new.'**

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

**brand-new
New Age
newish
New York**

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

**From the Middle English word
neue and from Old English
neowe, *niowe* and *niwe*.**

**Also from Persian *nau*, Greek
neos, Latin *novus* and Welsh
newydd.**



3.16 GROWTH

**Morpheme
Marvel asks...**



**What are the
root words?**

The root origin is *ghre-* meaning 'to grow, become green.'

**Captain
Connector asks...**



**Which words
are related?**

grass
grow
green
grow up
outgrow
regrow

**Doctor
Derivation asks...**



**What's the
word history?**

From Old Norse *groa* meaning 'to grow' and Old English *growan*.

Also related to Old English *weaxan* (wax) relating to the phases of the moon.