

WORD ORIGINS TRIVIA QUIZ



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1> From what language is the word "LOOT" derived?

- a. German
- b. Dutch
- c. Hindi
- d. Czech

2> The language of origin of PALAVER is?

- a. Portuguese
- b. Malay
- c. French
- d. Dutch

3> The word MOLASSES derives from?

- a. Portuguese
- b. Arabic
- c. Spanish
- d. Tagalog

4> Which is the odd word out, based on language of origin?

- a. KINK
- b. PECAN
- c. BLUFF
- d. DERRICK

5> Which is not of Malaysian origin?

- a. GONG

- b. TOUCAN
- c. AMOK
- d. GINGHAM

6> The distress signal "Mayday" is derived from?

- a. French
- b. Morse Code
- c. Italian
- d. Is of unknown origin

7> Which word is not of Arabic origin?

- a. ALCHEMY
- b. ALPHABET
- c. ALFALFA
- d. ALGORITHM

8> Which is the odd word out?

- a. TAWDRY
- b. NICOTINE
- c. PETREL
- d. FILBERT

9> The word "Malaria" comes from what language?

- a. French
- b. English
- c. Italian
- d. German

10> Which of the following words originally came from the Aztecs?

- a. Assassin
- b. Avocado
- c. Hazard
- d. Phony

Answers:

- 1> Hindi - Hindi, from the Sanskrit LOTRAM, meaning PLUNDER.
- 2> Portuguese - PALAVER - a. Idle chatter. b. Talk intended to charm or beguile.
- 3> Portuguese - A thick syrup produced in refining raw sugar.
- 4> PECAN - PECAN is of Algonquin origin. The other three come from Dutch/Low German.
- 5> TOUCAN - Amok means crazed with murderous frenzy.
- 6> French - French m'aidez, meaning 'Help me'.
- 7> ALPHABET - 'ALPHABET' is derived from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet, ALPHA and BETA.
- 8> NICOTINE - Only one not derived from a Saint's name [St Audrey, St Peter, St Philbert].
- 9> Italian - The word was originally used to describe the miasma from the swamps around Rome.
- 10> Avocado - The Aztecs called this fruit ahucatl after their word for testicle.

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