

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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