

Worksheet for Etymological Analysis

Text (author, title, page number, and editor, if any): _____

from page/line _____ to page/line _____

Words from **Old English**

1	21	41	61
5	25	45	65
10	30	50	70
15	35	55	75
20	40	60	80

% of Total _____

Words from **Old Norse** (Scandinavian)

1	6	11
5	10	15

% of Total _____

Words from **other Germanic** languages

1	6	11
5	10	15

% of Total _____

Words from **French** (or Latin via French)

1	16	31
5	20	35
10	25	40
15	30	45

% of Total _____

Words directly from **Latin**

1	11	21
5	15	25
10	20	30

% of Total _____

Words from **Other Languages**

word	language

% of Total _____

Rule of Thumb Criteria of Word Origin

A. Germanic Origin (OE, ON and other Germanic Languages)

1. *Th* and *gh* are signs of Germanic origin. Exceptions: *author, faith, delight, spright* (a variant spelling of "sprite," cognate with "spirit"), *haughty, caught, throne*, and some obviously "learned" borrowings that retain the Greek theta, such as *method, anthem, ether, anthology, enthusiasm*.
2. The "function words" of English, that is, the pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and the definite and indefinite articles are of Germanic origin. Exceptions: the prepositions *during* and *except* and the conjunctions *because, despite, in spite of*. Also Germanic are the auxiliary verbs *do, have, will, can, may, must, ought, going (to), (have) got (to)*.
3. The strong verbs are Germanic. Exception: *strive, strove, striven*.
4. Related words that show the effects of i-mutation are Germanic, provided that other evidence does not conflict. Such words include the pairs *doom-deem, food-feed, deep-depth, long-length* and such singular-plural pairs as *man-men, woman-women, goose-geese, tooth-teeth, mouse-mice*.

B. Criteria of French or Latin Origin

5. Words beginning with the sound /s/, spelled <c>, are probably of French or Latin origin. Examples: *cinder, city*. (The spelling <c> of the sound /s/ is not a criterion when it occurs after the beginning of a word; *ice* is from OE *_s*.)
6. Words beginning with <v> and <j> may be assumed to be of French or Latin origin. Examples: *very, justice*. The sound /v/ did not occur in ME at the beginning of words, except in the Southern and Kentish dialects, which give us MnE *vane, vat* and *vixen*. Also Germanic are the ON *valhalla, valkyrie*.
7. Suffixes. Words may be assumed to be from Latin or French if they have suffixes belong to one of the following groups:
 - a. *-ate*, terminal or in the composite suffixes *-atile, -atility, -ation, -ative, -ator*.
Examples: *locate, indicative, orator, versatile, vocation*.

b. *-ic, -id, -ile* in adjectives. Examples: *comic, lurid, facile*.

c. *-ite*, terminal or in the composite suffixes *-itate, -ition, -itive, -itude, -ity, -itivity*, etc.
Examples: *irritate, latitude, probity, punitive*.

d. *-sion* and *-tion*. Examples: *tension, action, division, relation, persuasion*.

8. Stems with the spelling-combination <ct>, and their derivatives, are from Latin or French.
Examples: *duct, fact, sect, strict, collect, act, picture*