

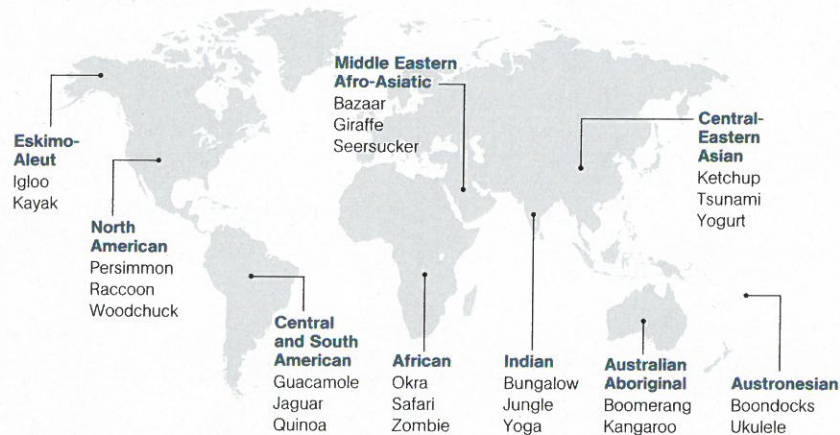
English by the Book

THE WORD "MAGAZINE" offers a lesson in how the English language evolved. The familiar term likely made its written debut in a 1583 letter from a British merchant traveling through the Middle East: "Neither any other Officer shall meddle with the goods, but that it may be kept in a Magosine." There it meant "storehouse," derived from Arabic. The word came to mean a periodical publication—a storehouse of information—in the early 1700s.

The roots of "magazine" were uncovered after the Philological Society of London began to catalog the history of words in 1859. It took 71 years to compile the initial ten-volume work, now known as the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED). The current version holds more than 600,000 entries, with new words arriving all the time. —A. R. Williams

WHERE WORDS CAME FROM

The OED traces the origins of words. Many arrived from other European languages or via global exploration.



WHEN WORDS ENTERED THE LANGUAGE

Reviewing more than ten centuries of literature, experts find the first documented use of each word.



and booms in scientific research and publishing contributed to the jump in new words during the 19th century.



17TH CENTURY
51,076

Aboriginal
Americanize
Black sheep
Caribbean
Civilization
Free market
Geographic
Hand grenade
Hotel
Ice cream
Identify
Islam
Key chain
Ladybug
Magnetism
Mahogany
Mezuzah
Moccasin
Naive
Nincompoop
Orangutan
Ostracize
Palatable
Powwow
Prairie
Raspberry
Schoolteacher
Territorial
True blue
Volcano
Womanizer

Ventures abroad helped feed a new appetite for unusual words in the 16th and 17th centuries.

16TH CENTURY
37,047

Blueberry
Communicate
Dictatorship
Easter egg
Education
Heartbroken
Hellenism
Maritime
Mathematics
Mosquito
Nomad
Overpower
Potato
Procrastinate
Quinoa
Reality
Redhead
Runaway
Terrify
Timeless
Useful



Fewer new words were adopted in an era that emphasized precise writing.

18TH CENTURY
24,980

Abolitionist
Bigwig
Capitalize
Dog-eared
Electrician
Handyman
Homesick
Millimeter
Neurosis
Optimist
Pervasive
Roommate
Terrorism

ABUZZ
Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, 1859

Acid rain
Bicycle
Biosphere
Blueprint
Cello
Dwarf planet
Dyslexia
Feminist
Headphone
Immunize
Lunchbox
Mammal
Mascara
Mesmerize
Mom
Narcissism
Neonatal
Omnivore
Pasta
Photograph
Polarize
Purebred



The OED is still catching up with words for 20th-century technology and innovation. As a result, the number here is low—but growing.

20TH CENTURY
36,233
AND COUNTING

Acronym
Brainwash
Clone
Database
Gazillionaire
Gorp
Icecapade
In-box
Lifestyle
Moped
Multiracial
Neurobiology
Nitpick
Oink
Postmodern
Racist
Recycle
Supernova
Techno
Vegan
Yeehaw

