

WordForge — Flashcards

A Spark & Anvil printable flashcard deck. Quiz yourself on the WordForge cast's curriculum — one card at a time.

How to use these cards

Fold each sheet down the middle line so the answers are hidden. Read the **question** on the left, say your answer out loud, then **unfold** to check the right side. Testing yourself — then checking — is one of the most powerful ways to remember. Get one wrong? That's the best kind of practice: try it again tomorrow.

Want real flashcards? Cut along the fold line and the rows into cards — question on one side, answer on the other.

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WordForge — Flashcards

How to use these cards

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1. morphology — common prefixes + Latin/Greek roots

⌂ Question (fold →)	Answer
The prefix "dis-" in "disagree" means:	not / opposite of — "Dis-" means "not" or "opposite of", so disagree = do not agree.
The prefix "tri-" in "triangle" means:	three — "Tri-" means "three" — triangle = three angles, tricycle = three wheels.
The prefix "re-" in "rewrite" means:	again — "Re-" means "again" or "back", so "rewrite" = write again.
The prefix "sub-" in "submarine" means:	under / below — "Sub-" means "under/below", so submarine = under the sea.
Using "port" (carry), which word means "carry across"?	transport — "Trans-" (across) + "port" (carry) = transport, to carry across.
The root "aud" (as in "audio", "audience") means:	hear — "Aud" means "hear" — audio = sound, audience = those who hear.
In the word "unbreakable", how many meaningful word-parts (morphemes) are there?	three (un + break + able) — Three morphemes: prefix "un-" (not) + root "break" + suffix "-able" (able to be) = not able to be broken.
The root "dict" (as in "dictate", "predict") means:	say / speak — "Dict" means "say/speak" — dictate = speak out, predict = say beforehand.
The suffix "-less" in "fearless" means:	without — "-less" means "without" — fearless = without fear.
The suffix "-able" in "readable" means:	able to be — "-able" means "able to be" — readable = able to be read.
The root "vid/vis" (as in "video", "vision") means:	see — "Vid/vis" means "see" — video = to see, vision = the sense of sight.
Which word means "to say beforehand what will happen"?	predict — "Pre-" (before) + "dict" (say) = predict, to say what will happen before it does.
The prefix "in-" in "incorrect" means:	not — "In-" can mean "not" — incorrect = not correct.
The prefix "mis-" in "misspell" means:	wrongly — "Mis-" means "wrongly/badly", so misspell = spell wrongly.
The prefix "pre-" in "preview" means:	before — "Pre-" means "before", so a preview is a look before the full thing.
Which word uses a prefix meaning "too much"?	overcook — "Over-" means "too much/above", so overcook = cook too much.
The root "spect" (as in "inspect", "spectator") means:	look / see — "Spect" means "look/see" — inspect = look into, spectator = one who watches.
Which word means "not able to be seen"?	invisible — "In-" (not) + "vis" (see) + "-ible" (able) = invisible, not able to be seen.
The prefix "inter-" in "interact" means:	between / among — "Inter-" means "between/among" — interact = act between people.

The prefix "bi-" in "bicycle" means:	two — "Bi-" means "two" — bicycle = two wheels.
The Latin root "port" (as in "transport", "portable") means:	carry — The root "port" means "carry" — transport = carry across, portable = able to be carried.
Which word means "to carry back information"?	report — "Re-" (back) + "port" (carry) = report, to carry information back.
Which word means "to look at again"?	review — "Re-" (again) + "view" (look) = review, to look at again.
The prefix "un-" in "unhappy" means:	not — "Un-" means "not", so "unhappy" = not happy.
The root "scrib/script" (as in "scribble", "manuscript") means:	write — "Scrib/script" means "write" — manuscript = written by hand, scribble = write messily.

2. morphology

⌂ Question (fold →)	Answer
The suffix "-able" in "readable" means:	able to be — "-able" means "able to be", so "readable" = able to be read.
Which suffix means "the study of", as in "biology"?	-ology — "-ology" means "the study of": biology = the study of life.
Which suffix would you add to "friend" to mean "in a friendly way"?	-ly (friendly) — friend → friendly (adjective/adverb), describing how something is done.
The suffix "-ward" in "homeward" means:	in the direction of — "-ward" means "toward/in the direction of": homeward = toward home.
The suffix "-ist" in "artist" means:	a person who does something — "-ist" names a person: an artist makes art; a cyclist rides a cycle.
Add "-es" to "baby". The correct spelling is:	babies — Change y to i and add -es: baby → babies.
Add "-ed" to "hope". The correct spelling is:	hoped — Drop the silent e before -ed: hope → hoped.
Which word means "able to be broken"?	breakable — "-able" means "able to be", so breakable = able to be broken.
The suffix "-ment" in "movement" makes the word a:	noun — "-ment" makes a noun from a verb: move → movement.
In "colorful", "colorless", and "coloring", the common ROOT is:	color — The root "color" carries the core meaning; -ful/-less/-ing are suffixes added to it.
Add "-ful" to "beauty". The correct spelling is:	beautiful — Change y to i: beauty → beautiful.
The suffix "-en" in "darken" usually means:	to make or become — "-en" often means "to make": darken = to make dark.
The suffix "-ish" in "childish" means:	somewhat like — "-ish" means "somewhat/like", so childish = acting somewhat like a child.
Which word correctly adds "-ing" to "run"?	running — A short-vowel word ending in one consonant doubles it: run → running.
Which suffix makes "friend" mean "state of being friends"?	-ship (friendship) — "-ship" names a state or condition: friendship = the state of being friends.
Which word family shares the SAME root as "sign"?	signal, signature — Signal and signature both come from "sign" (a mark). Single/sing are different roots.
Add "-ing" to "hope". The correct spelling is:	hoping — Drop the silent e before -ing: hope → hoping. (hopping = from hop!)
The suffix "-ness" in "kindness" turns the word into a:	noun (a thing/quality) — "-ness" makes a noun naming a quality: kind → kindness.
Which word is the noun form of "happy"?	happiness — Add -ness (and change y to i): happy → happiness, a noun.

Adding "-er" to "teach" makes "teacher", which means:	one who teaches — "-er" often means "one who does", so a teacher is one who teaches.
Which suffix turns "quick" into an adverb (how something is done)?	-ly — "-ly" makes an adverb: quick → quickly.
The suffix "-less" in "fearless" means:	without — "-less" means "without", so "fearless" = without fear.
The suffix "-ful" in "hopeful" means:	full of — "-ful" means "full of", so "hopeful" = full of hope.
The word "actor" is built from "act" + "-or". "-or" means:	one who — "-or", like "-er", names one who does: an actor is one who acts.
"Careful" and "careless" are opposites because the suffixes mean:	"full of" vs. "without" — -ful = full of, -less = without, so careful and careless are opposites.

3. vocabulary

⌂ Question (fold →)	Answer
Which word fits the pattern _ O _ _ (4 letters, 2nd letter O)?	book — bOok has O as its 2nd letter. ball/bird/bark do not.
Crossword clue: "Opposite of fast" (4 letters)	slow — "Slow" is the opposite of fast — 4 letters.
Two crossing words share the 2nd letter. If ACROSS is "CAT", the crossing letter is:	A — The 2nd letter of CAT is A, so any word crossing there must have A at that spot.
Crossword clue: "Opposite of empty" (4 letters)	full — "Full" is the opposite of empty — 4 letters.
Crossword clue: "A young dog" (5 letters)	puppy — A young dog is a puppy — 5 letters.
Crossword clue: "A place where books are kept" (7 letters)	library — A library is where books are kept. It has 7 letters.
Which word fits _ A _ (3 letters, middle A)?	hat — hAt has A in the middle. hit/hot/hut have i/o/u.
A DOWN answer must end in T and be 3 letters: which fits "starts with C"?	cat — CAT ends in T; cap/cab/car end in p/b/r.
Crossword clue: "A number after nine" (3 letters)	ten — The number after nine is ten — 3 letters.
If ACROSS "MOON" crosses DOWN "SNOW" and they share one square, and MOON's 3rd letter meets SNOW's 3rd letter, the shared letter is:	O — MOON 3rd = O; SNOW 3rd = O. They match — a valid crossing.
A word fits the pattern S _ _ (starts with S, 3 letters). Which works?	sun — Sun starts with S. bat/cat/map do not.
Crossword clue: "Not old" (3 letters)	new — "New" is the opposite of old and fits 3 letters.
Which word could fill _ E _ (3 letters, middle letter E)?	bed — bEd has E in the middle. cat/sun/dog do not.
If a 4-letter ACROSS answer is "FROG", a DOWN word crossing its last letter needs which letter?	G — F-R-O-G: the last (4th) letter is G.
Crossword clue: "Something you read that comes each day" (9 letters)	newspaper — A newspaper comes daily and has 9 letters. (Magazine has 8.)
Crossword clue: "Frozen water" (3 letters)	ice — Ice is frozen water and has exactly 3 letters.
Crossword clue: "Frozen rain that falls in flakes" (4 letters)	snow — Snow falls in flakes — 4 letters. (Hail is icy pellets, not flakes.)
If two answers cross and one square must be both the LAST letter of "DOG" and the FIRST letter of a DOWN word, the DOWN word must start	G — DOG ends in G, so the crossing

with:	DOWN word must start with G.
Crossword clue: "The star at the center of our solar system" (3 letters)	sun — The Sun is our star — 3 letters.
A DOWN word crosses "STAR" at the 3rd letter. That crossing letter is:	A — S-T-A-R: the 3rd letter is A.
Crossword clue: "The color of the sky on a clear day" (4 letters)	blue — A clear daytime sky is blue — 4 letters.
Crossword clue: "You use it to see" (3 letters)	eye — You see with an eye — 3 letters.
Crossword clue: "Opposite of night" (3 letters)	day — "Day" is the opposite of night and fits 3 letters.
Crossword clue: "A shape with three sides" (8 letters)	triangle — A triangle has three sides and 8 letters.
Crossword clue: "A large gray animal with a trunk" (8 letters)	elephant — An elephant has a trunk and 8 letters. (Mammoth has 7.)

4. wordplay

⌘ Question (fold →)	Answer
Which word uses exactly the letters of "HEART"?	earth — EARTH rearranges H-E-A-R-T. (HATER also works; hearth adds an H.)
Which word uses exactly the letters of "SPARE"?	pears — PEARS rearranges S-P-A-R-E. (PARSE, SPEAR, REAPS also work.)
Which word is an anagram of "EAT"?	tea — TEA rearranges E-A-T. (ATE also works, but "eats" adds a letter and "sea" changes one.)
An anagram of "FLOW" is:	wolf — WOLF rearranges F-L-O-W. (FOWL also works.)
An anagram of "STOP" is:	pots — POTS uses S-T-O-P exactly. (POST and SPOT also work — all are valid anagrams of STOP.)
Which word can be made from "RATS"?	star — STAR rearranges R-A-T-S. (ARTS, TARS also work.)
An anagram of "MEAT" is:	team — TEAM rearranges M-E-A-T. (MATE and TAME also work; MEAN swaps a letter.)
Rearrange "NAP" to spell:	pan — PAN uses N-A-P exactly. (NAP → PAN.)
Which word can be made from "FRIED"?	fired — FIRED uses F-R-I-E-D exactly.
Rearrange "TAP" to spell:	pat — PAT uses T-A-P exactly. (APT also works.)
Which is an anagram of "ANGEL"?	angle — ANGLE rearranges A-N-G-E-L. (GLEAN also works; ANGER swaps a letter.)
Which is an anagram of "POST"?	spot — SPOT rearranges P-O-S-T. (STOP, POTS, TOPS also work.)
Rearrange the letters of "LISTEN" to make another word:	silent — LISTEN and SILENT use the exact same six letters. (TINSEL does too, but SILENT is the common answer here.)
Which word can be made from the letters in "TABLE"?	bleat — BLEAT uses T-A-B-L-E (the sound a sheep makes). "stable" adds an S.
Which is an anagram of "DREAM"?	armed — ARMED rearranges D-R-E-A-M. (MADRE too.)
An anagram of "GOD" is:	dog — DOG rearranges G-O-D.
Rearrange "OWL" to make:	low — LOW uses O-W-L exactly. (WOL isn't a word; wool adds a letter.)
An anagram of "NOW" is:	won — WON rearranges N-O-W. (OWN also works.)
How can you tell two words are anagrams of each other?	They use exactly the same letters, just in a different order — Anagrams contain the identical set of letters rearranged — not same start, meaning, or rhyme.
Which is an anagram of "BARE"?	bear — BEAR rearranges B-A-R-E. (BARE → BEAR.)

Which is an anagram of "DUSTY"?	study — STUDY uses D-U-S-T-Y exactly.
Which is an anagram of "NIGHT"?	thing — THING rearranges N-I-G-H-T. Sight/tight change a letter.
An anagram of "SAW" is:	was — WAS rearranges S-A-W.
Rearrange "ARC" to make:	car — CAR uses A-R-C exactly.
Rearrange "CARE" to spell:	race — RACE uses C-A-R-E exactly. (ACRE also works.)

5. wordplay

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
Change one letter in "BEST" to mean an animal:	beast? No, that adds a letter — BEST → PEST? A pest is a nuisance. BEST → BEAT — BEST → BEAT changes S to A (a real word). BEAST adds a letter; not a one-letter step.
Which is a valid ladder: each step one letter?	CAT → COT → COG → DOG — CAT→COT→COG→DOG each change one letter and stay real words. The others jump, add, or rearrange.
In a word ladder, each step must:	change exactly one letter and stay a real word — A word ladder changes exactly one letter per step, and every rung must be a real word.
Ladder: HATE → HAVE → GAVE. The step HATE → HAVE changes:	the third letter (T→V) — HATE → HAVE changes the 3rd letter T to V.
Ladder: CAT → COT → COG. The step COT → COG changes:	the last letter (T→G) — COT → COG changes only the final letter, T to G.
Which pair are valid neighbours (differ by one letter)?	BAT and BAG — BAT → BAG changes one letter. CATS adds a letter, TAB rearranges, BATH adds a letter.
Turn "SAD" into "MAD" — this step changes:	the first letter (S→M) — SAD → MAD changes only the first letter.
Turn "LIME" into "TIME" — the change is:	the first letter (L→T) — LIME → TIME changes only the first letter.
Which is a valid one-letter step from "COLD"?	cord — COLD → CORD changes L to R. (GOLD/BOLD change the first letter — also valid one-letter steps; CORD is the intended answer here as the others change position 1.)
Which single-letter change turns "FLOUR" into a plant part?	flour → floor? No — change U... FLOUR → FLOOR — FLOUR → FLOOR changes U to O. (This is a classic ladder step; FLOOR is a real word.)
Which is a real one-letter neighbour of "MOON"?	moon → moan — MOON → MOAN changes O to A. (MOON → NOON also changes one letter and is valid.)
Change one letter in "HEAD" to get a body part you hear with? (H_A_)	hear — HEAD → HEAR changes D to R. (HEAR relates to the ear.)
Best single step from "COLD" toward "WARM": which rung keeps it a real word?	cord — COLD → CORD is a real word (one letter changed). "carm" and "wold" aren't common words here.
A word ladder is like climbing because:	you take one small step (one letter) at a time — Each rung is one small, safe change — one letter — just like taking stairs one step at a time.
Which step is INVALID in a word ladder?	RUN → RUNS (adds a letter) — RUN → RUNS adds a letter, changing the length, so it breaks the one-letter rule.
Turn "FOUR" into "FOUL" — the change is:	the last letter (R→L) — FOUR → FOUL changes only the last letter.

Which is NOT a valid single step from "HOT"?	shot — SHOT adds a letter (4 letters), so it is not a one-letter change of HOT.
Word ladder step: change ONE letter in "CAT" to make an animal that says "moo"? First get to "COT"→... which one-letter change of CAT gives a bed?	cot — CAT → COT changes the middle A to O (a small bed). Only one letter changes.
Which two words are ladder neighbours?	WARM and WARD — WARM → WARD changes M to D (one letter). WORM changes A to O — also one letter — but WARD is the neighbour listed cleanly; WARMS/DRAW add or rearrange.
Ladder from "COLD" to "CORD" to "WORD": the second step (CORD→WORD) changes:	the first letter (C→W) — CORD → WORD changes only the first letter, C to W.
Which word could come between "COLD" and "CARD" in a ladder (one letter from each)?	CORD — CORD is one letter from COLD (L→R) and one letter from CARD (O→A) — a valid middle rung.
Turn "PIG" into "PIT" — which letter changes?	the last letter (G→T) — PIG → PIT changes only the last letter, G to T.
The first and last words of a word ladder usually:	have the same number of letters — Because every step keeps the length the same, the start and end words have equal length.
Which word is a one-letter neighbour of "STAR"?	star → scar — STAR → SCAR changes T to C. Stars adds a letter, rats rearranges, start adds a letter.
If you go CAT → BAT → BAD, how many letters changed in total across the two steps?	2 (one per step) — Each step changes exactly one letter, so two steps change two letters total.

6. morphology

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
The word "transport" combines "trans-" (across) and "port" (carry), so it means:	carry across — trans- (across) + port (carry) = carry across.
The root "port" (as in transport, export) means:	carry — "Port" means carry: transport = carry across, export = carry out.
The Greek root "bio" (biology, biography) means:	life — "Bio" means life: biology is the study of life.
The root "therm" (thermometer, thermal) means:	heat — "Therm" means heat: a thermometer measures heat/temperature.
The root "dict" (dictate, predict) means:	say / speak — "Dict" means say: to dictate is to say words aloud; predict = say beforehand.
"Telescope" = "tele" (far) + "scope" (look). It is a tool to:	look at things far away — tele (far) + scope (look) = a tool for looking at distant things.
The root "spect" (inspect, spectator) means:	look / watch — "Spect" means look: a spectator watches; to inspect is to look closely.
The Greek root "tele" (telephone, television) means:	far / distant — "Tele" means far: a telephone carries sound from far away.
The root "scrib/script" (describe, manuscript) means:	write — "Scrib/script" means write: a manuscript is written by hand.
"Predict" = "pre-" (before) + "dict" (say). It means:	say before it happens — pre- (before) + dict (say) = to say beforehand.
The root "phon" (telephone, symphony) means:	sound — "Phon" means sound: a symphony is many sounds together.
Which word contains a root meaning "write"?	manuscript — Manuscript contains "script" (write). The others contain water, sound-far, and look.
Which two words share a root that means "look"?	inspect and spectator — Inspect and spectator both share "spect" (look). The other pairs share light/water/life.
The root "aqua" (aquarium, aquatic) means:	water — "Aqua" means water: an aquarium holds water animals.
The root "struct" (construct, structure) means:	build — "Struct" means build: to construct is to build.
"Biography" = "bio" (life) + "graph" (write). It means:	the written story of a life — bio (life) + graph (write) = a written account of a life.
The root "mit/miss" (transmit, mission) means:	send — "Mit/miss" means send: to transmit is to send; a mission is something you are sent to do.
The root "cent" (century, percent) means:	hundred — "Cent" means hundred: a century is 100 years; a cent is 1/100 of a dollar.

The root "graph/gram" (autograph, telegram) means:	write / draw — "Graph/gram" means write or draw: an autograph is your written name.
The root "geo" (geography, geology) means:	earth — "Geo" means earth: geology is the study of the earth.
The Greek root "auto" (automatic, autograph) means:	self — "Auto" means self: an autograph is signed by oneself; automatic runs by itself.
The root "vis/vid" (visible, video) means:	see — "Vis/vid" means see: something visible can be seen; a video is seen.
The Greek root "photo" (photograph, photosynthesis) means:	light — "Photo" means light: a photograph is drawn with light.
Knowing roots helps you read new words because:	you can figure out meaning from familiar word parts — If you know "port" = carry and "trans-" = across, you can decode "transport" without ever seeing it before.
The root "man/manu" (manual, manufacture) means:	hand — "Man/manu" means hand: manual work is done by hand.

7. word relationships

⌘ Question (fold →)	Answer
An antonym of "generous" is:	stingy — Stingy (unwilling to give) is the opposite of generous.
An antonym of "ancient" is:	modern — Modern (new) is the opposite of ancient. The others are synonyms of old.
Which word has a more NEGATIVE feeling (connotation)?	cheap — "Cheap" often implies poor quality (negative), while the others just mean low-cost (neutral/positive).
Which pair are ANTONYMS?	empty / full — Empty and full are opposites; the others are synonym pairs.
Which word is an ANTONYM (opposite) of "brave"?	cowardly — Cowardly is the opposite of brave. Bold/fearless/daring are synonyms.
Why does choosing the RIGHT synonym matter?	small differences in feeling and strength change the meaning — Synonyms carry nuances of degree and connotation, so the precise word shapes the message.
Which word is a SYNONYM (same meaning) for "happy"?	joyful — Joyful means the same as happy. Angry/tired/quiet do not.
An antonym of "victory" is:	defeat — Defeat is the opposite of victory; the others are synonyms.
The most POSITIVE word for someone who saves money is:	thrifty — "Thrifty" praises careful saving; stingy/miserly/cheap are negative.
Which word is the strongest? "warm", "hot", "scorching"	scorching — Scorching is the most intense; warm is mildest. These are degrees of heat.
"Slim", "thin", and "scrawny" all describe being not-heavy, but "scrawny" is:	the most negative in feeling — Scrawny carries a negative connotation (too thin/weak), unlike neutral "thin" or positive "slim".
Which word means almost the same as "smart"?	clever — Clever is a synonym for smart; the others are opposites.
"Glance", "look", and "stare" differ in:	how long or intently you view — They are shades of "viewing": a glance is brief, a stare is long and intense.
Which pair are SYNONYMS?	big / large — Big and large mean the same thing; the others are opposite pairs.
"Curious", "nosy", and "inquisitive" all mean wanting to know, but "nosy" is:	the most negative — "Nosy" implies prying into others' business (negative), unlike neutral curious/inquisitive.
A synonym for "quiet" is:	silent — Silent means the same as quiet; the others are opposites.
A synonym for "difficult" is:	hard — Hard means the same as difficult; the others are opposites.
Rank from weakest to strongest: "dislike", "hate", "detest".	dislike, hate, detest — Dislike is mildest; hate and detest are stronger, detest being most intense.
An antonym of "expand" is:	shrink — Shrink (get smaller) is the opposite of expand; the others are synonyms.

Which is the best synonym for "rapid"?	swift — Swift means fast, like rapid.
A synonym for "begin" is:	start — Start means the same as begin; the others are opposites.
An antonym of "increase" is:	decrease — Decrease (go down) is the opposite of increase.
"Youthful" has a more positive feeling than "childish" because:	youthful praises energy, childish criticizes acting immature — Both relate to being young, but "youthful" is a compliment while "childish" is a criticism — a connotation difference.
"Whisper", "talk", and "shout" differ mainly in:	how loud the speaking is — They are shades of the same idea (speaking) that differ in volume — a nuance of degree.
Choose the best synonym for "enormous":	gigantic — Gigantic and enormous both mean very large.

8. etymology

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
The word "hamburger" is named after:	Hamburg, a city in Germany — The hamburger is named after Hamburg, Germany — despite containing no ham.
"Robot" entered English from a Czech play; it comes from a word meaning:	forced labor / work — Czech "robota" means forced labor — the origin of the word "robot".
"Volcano" comes from Vulcan, who was:	the Roman god of fire — Volcano is named after Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and the forge.
"Dinosaur" comes from Greek parts meaning:	terrible lizard — deinos (terrible) + sauros (lizard) = terrible lizard.
The days of the week (e.g., "Thursday") are largely named after:	old Norse/Germanic gods — Thursday = "Thor's day". Several weekday names honour Norse/Germanic gods.
The word "biscuit" comes from Latin words meaning:	twice-cooked — Biscuit = bis (twice) + coctus (cooked): biscuits were baked twice to keep them dry.
"Telephone" is built from Greek parts meaning:	far + sound — tele (far) + phone (sound): a device carrying sound over a distance.
A word borrowed from another language is called a:	loanword — A loanword is taken ("borrowed") from another language, like "piano" from Italian.
The word "salary" comes from a Latin word for "salt" because:	Roman soldiers were once paid in or for salt — Latin "salarium" relates to salt payments to soldiers — the origin of "worth your salt".
"Piano" and "spaghetti" are loanwords from:	Italian — Both piano and spaghetti came into English from Italian.
The word "denim" comes from the phrase "de Nîmes", meaning:	from Nîmes, a city in France — Denim = "de Nîmes" (from Nîmes, France), where the fabric was made.
Many English words for cooked meat (beef, pork) came from:	French, after the Norman Conquest — After 1066, French-speaking Normans ruled England, so many food words entered English from French.
The word "quarantine" comes from an Italian word for "forty" because:	ships once waited forty days before landing to avoid spreading disease — Venetian "quaranta giorni" (forty days) was the isolation period for arriving ships.
The word "clue" originally meant "a ball of thread" because:	a thread was used to find the way out of a maze — In the myth of the Labyrinth, a thread ("clew") guided the way out — so a clue leads you to an answer.
When we trace a word to its ancestor language, we are finding its:	root or origin — Tracing to an ancestor language reveals the word's root or origin.
Studying a word's history can help a reader by:	revealing its meaning and connecting it to related words — Knowing origins unlocks meaning and links words that share roots.
A word's meaning can change over time. This process is part of what etymology studies. "Nice" once meant:	foolish or silly — "Nice" originally meant foolish/ignorant; its meaning shifted to "pleasant" over centuries.

Etymology is the study of:	where words come from and how they change — Etymology studies word origins and history. (Entomology, with an n, is the study of insects!)
If two languages share a common ancestor, related words in them are called:	cognates — Cognates are words with a shared origin, like English "mother" and German "Mutter".
The word "muscle" comes from a Latin word meaning "little mouse" because:	a flexing muscle looked like a mouse moving under the skin — Latin "musculus" = little mouse; a rippling muscle reminded Romans of a mouse.
"Photograph" combines Greek "photo" (light) and "graph" (write), so literally it means:	drawing/writing with light — Literally "light-writing": a camera records an image using light.
English is sometimes called a "borrowing" language because:	it has taken in words from many other languages — English has absorbed vocabulary from French, Latin, Greek, Arabic, Italian, and many more.
English gets many science words from:	Greek and Latin — Greek and Latin roots supply most science vocabulary (biology, telescope, photosynthesis).
The word "sandwich" comes from:	the Earl of Sandwich, who ate meat between bread — The sandwich is named after the Earl of Sandwich. Many words come from people's names.
Words like "algebra" and "alcohol" were borrowed into English from:	Arabic — Al- words like algebra, alcohol, and algorithm entered English from Arabic.

9. wordplay

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
Cryptic-style clue: "It has a face and hands but no arms." The answer is:	a clock — A clock has a face and hands (for telling time) but no arms — a riddle using double meanings.
The best strategy when a clue seems impossible is to:	ask which words might have a second meaning — Cryptic-lite clues hinge on double meanings, so hunt for the word with an alternate sense.
Clue: "What has many keys but can't open a single lock?" (besides a piano)	a keyboard — A computer keyboard has many keys but opens no locks — a play on "keys".
Cryptic-style clue: "It has a neck but no head." (something you drink from)	a bottle — A bottle has a "neck" (the narrow top) but no head — using the body-part meaning of neck.
Which word means BOTH "to leave" AND "the opposite of right"?	left — "Left" is the past tense of leave AND the opposite of right.
"Light" can mean "not heavy" OR:	not dark / brightness — "Light" means both low weight and brightness — two meanings.
Which word can mean BOTH a part of a river AND money in a building?	bank — "Bank" = the side of a river AND a place for money.
Cryptic-style clue: "It has teeth but cannot bite." (you use it on hair)	a comb — A comb has "teeth" but cannot bite — using the tool meaning of teeth.
Clue: "I have branches but no leaves, no trunk, and no fruit. What am I?"	a bank (it has branches) — A bank has "branches" (locations) but not the tree kind — a double-meaning riddle.
Cryptic-style clue: "It has a mouth but never eats; a bank but no money." The answer is:	a river — A river has a "mouth" (where it meets the sea) and "banks" (its sides) — playing on both words.
Clue: "The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?"	footsteps — The more steps you take, the more footprints you leave — a play on "take" and "leave".
Clue: "What has keys but opens no doors?" (an instrument)	a piano — A piano has keys but they play notes, not open doors — a double-meaning riddle on "keys".
Cryptic-style clue: "It runs but never walks; it has a bed but never sleeps." The answer is:	a river — A river "runs" (flows) and has a "bed" (riverbed) — playing on double meanings.
A "bark" can be a dog's sound OR:	the outer covering of a tree — "Bark" has two meanings: a dog's sound and tree covering — a word with multiple meanings.
"Wave" can mean water at the beach OR:	moving your hand to say hello — "Wave" is both an ocean swell and a hand gesture — two meanings.
"Trunk" can mean an elephant's nose OR:	the storage space of a car, or a tree's main stem — "Trunk" means an elephant's nose, a car's storage, AND a tree's stem — several meanings.
"Ring" can mean jewelry on your finger	the sound a bell makes — "Ring" is both a circular band and the

OR:	sound of a bell — two meanings.
Clue: "What gets wetter the more it dries?"	a towel — A towel gets wetter as it dries you off — a play on the two senses of "dry".
"Match" can mean a small fire-stick OR:	a game/contest, or a pair that goes together — "Match" has several meanings: a fire-stick, a contest, and a good pair.
Which word means BOTH "a season" AND "to jump"?	spring — "Spring" is a season AND to spring means to jump. (Fall is also a season, but doesn't mean jump.)
Clue: "What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?"	a stamp — A stamp stays in the corner of an envelope yet travels worldwide — a double-meaning riddle.
Clue: "A bat can fly OR you swing it in a game." This shows that "bat" is a word with:	two different meanings — "Bat" means both a flying animal and sports equipment — one spelling, two meanings.
Which word can mean "a tree part" AND "to leave quickly"?	leaf/leave — This clue plays on "leaf" (tree part) sounding like "leave" (to go) — a homophone twist. Best match: leaf/leave.
Which word means BOTH "a writing tool" AND "an enclosure for animals"?	pen — "Pen" is both a writing tool and a small enclosure for animals.
Cryptic clues often work by:	using a word's second, less obvious meaning — Cryptic clues trick you by relying on a word's alternate meaning.

10. figurative language

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
"The stars danced in the sky" is:	personification — Stars can't dance; giving them a human action is personification.
The idiom "under the weather" means:	feeling sick — "Under the weather" means feeling ill.
"He ran like the wind" is a:	simile — It compares his running to the wind using "like" — a simile.
Which sentence contains a METAPHOR?	My brother is a night owl. — "Is a night owl" is a metaphor (says he IS an owl). "Like an owl" would be a simile.
"The thunder grumbled in the distance" is:	personification — Thunder can't grumble like a person; this is personification.
"Her smile was as bright as the sun" is a:	simile — It compares her smile to the sun using "as" — a simile.
"The snow is a white blanket over the town" is a:	metaphor — It says the snow IS a blanket (no like/as) — a metaphor.
The idiom "It's raining cats and dogs" means:	it is raining very hard — This idiom means heavy rain — its meaning isn't literal.
Which word has the WARMEST (most positive) connotation?	home — "Home" suggests warmth and belonging; the others are neutral.
"Time is money" is a:	metaphor — It states time IS money (a direct comparison without like/as) — a metaphor.
The idiom "cost an arm and a leg" means:	very expensive — "Cost an arm and a leg" means something is very expensive.
The idiom "hit the books" means:	study hard — "Hit the books" means to study.
Which sentence uses PERSONIFICATION?	The flowers nodded in the breeze. — Flowers "nodding" is a human action — personification. The others are simile and metaphor.
Which is an example of an IDIOM?	spill the beans — "Spill the beans" (reveal a secret) is an idiom. The others are simile, personification, metaphor.
The idiom "let the cat out of the bag" means:	reveal a secret — "Let the cat out of the bag" means to reveal a secret accidentally.
"The wind whispered through the trees" gives the wind a human action. This is:	personification — Giving a non-human thing (the wind) a human action (whispering) is personification.
"As busy as a bee" is an example of a:	simile — A simile compares using "like" or "as" — here "as busy as".
"The old car coughed and sputtered to a stop" gives the car:	human/living actions (personification) — Cars can't cough; giving it that action is personification.
"The classroom was a zoo" is an	metaphor — A metaphor says one thing IS another (the classroom = a zoo)

example of a:	without "like" or "as".
"Life is a journey" is a:	metaphor — It says life IS a journey (no like/as) — a metaphor.
The idiom "a piece of cake" means:	something very easy — "A piece of cake" means something is easy to do.
The idiom "break the ice" means:	make people feel comfortable / start a conversation — "Break the ice" means to ease tension and get a conversation going.
Which sentence contains a SIMILE?	The lake was as smooth as glass. — The simile uses "as smooth as glass". "A mirror" is a metaphor; "smiled" is personification.
Why do writers use figurative language?	to create vivid images and feelings — Figurative language paints pictures and stirs emotion, making writing come alive.
Connotation means:	the feeling or idea a word suggests beyond its dictionary meaning — Connotation is the emotional shade a word carries (e.g., "home" feels warmer than "house").

11. morphology

⌂ Question (fold →)	Answer
Build a word meaning "in a careless way":	carelessly — care + -less (without) + -ly (in a way) = carelessly.
"Il-", "im-", "in-", and "ir-" are all prefixes that usually mean:	not — All are forms of "not": illegal, impossible, invisible, irregular.
Which word means "the quality of being kind"?	kindness — kind + -ness (quality of) = kindness.
The word "unpredictability" is built from how many meaningful parts (morphemes)?	4 (un + pre + dict + ability) — un- + pre- + dict + -ability — roughly four meaningful parts combine to form the word.
Knowing how to break a word into prefix + root + suffix helps you:	figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words — Decoding word parts lets you unlock words you've never seen before.
"Transport" + "-ation" = "transportation", which is a:	noun (a thing/system) — -ation turns the verb transport into a noun: transportation.
The word "biology" = "bio" (life) + "-logy" (study of). "Geology" studies:	the earth — geo (earth) + -logy (study of) = the study of the earth.
"Re-" (again) + "construct" (build) + "-ion" (act of) = "reconstruction", meaning:	the act of building again — re- (again) + construct (build) + -ion (act of) = the act of building again.
Break "disagreement" into parts:	dis- + agree + -ment — dis- (not) + agree + -ment (state of) = disagreement.
"In-" (not) + "visible" (able to be seen) = "invisible", meaning:	not able to be seen — in- (not) + visible = not able to be seen.
"-able" vs "-ible" both mean "able to be". Which is correct: "vis___"?	visible — Some roots take -ible: visible, not "visable".
"Sub-" means "under". "Submarine" travels:	under the sea — sub- (under) + marine (sea) = under the sea.
Build a word meaning "the act of not agreeing":	disagreement — dis- (not) + agree + -ment (act/state of) = disagreement.
Build the word: "un-" (not) + "friend" + "-ly" (in a way). "Unfriendly" means:	not in a friendly way — un- (not) + friend + -ly = not friendly / not in a friendly way.
Which word means "able to be predicted"?	predictable — predict + -able = predictable (able to be predicted).
"Mis-" (wrongly) + "understand" + "-ing" = "misunderstanding", meaning:	understanding wrongly — mis- (wrongly) + understand = to understand wrongly.
Break "unbelievable" into parts:	un- + believe + -able — un- (not) + believe + -able = not able to be believed.
Build a word meaning "one who plays the piano":	pianist — piano + -ist (one who) = pianist.
Break "internationally" into parts:	inter- + nation + -al + -ly — inter- (between) + nation + -al (adjective) + -ly (adverb) = internationally.
"Semi-" means "half". "Semicircle" is:	half a circle — semi- (half) + circle = half a circle.

Which spelling of the "not" prefix goes with "regular"?	ir- (irregular) — Before r, "not" becomes ir-: irregular. (il- before l, im- before m/p, in- elsewhere.)
"Pre-" (before) + "view" (see) + "-ing" = "previewing", meaning:	seeing something before(hand) — pre- (before) + view (see) = to see beforehand; -ing makes it ongoing.
Which word means "one who acts"?	actor — act + -or (one who) = actor.
Which word contains a prefix, a root, AND a suffix?	unhelpful — un- (prefix) + help (root) + -ful (suffix) = unhelpful. The others lack a prefix.
"Auto" (self) + "graph" (write) + "-ed" = "autographed", meaning:	self-written / signed by oneself — auto (self) + graph (write) = signed by oneself; -ed makes it past.

12. wordplay

⌂ Question (fold →)	Answer
In Boggle you make words from adjoining letters. If the board has T, A, and B adjacent, which word can you form?	bat — BAT uses only B, A, T. "bath" needs an H, "table" needs L/E, "cab" needs a C.
Ladder PLAN → PLAY → PRAY: the step PLAY → PRAY changes:	the 2nd letter (L→R) — PLAY → PRAY changes the 2nd letter, L to R.
The rule that each ladder rung must be a REAL word means:	you can't use nonsense letter strings as steps — Every rung must be a real word — nonsense strings like "CQT" are not allowed.
On a Boggle board, if Q appears it is usually printed as "Qu" because:	Q is almost always followed by U in English — English words almost always spell Q as "qu", so Boggle prints them together.
Which word can you NOT make from the letters in "GARDEN" (using each at most once)?	grand (needs two N/other letters? no — needs no extra, but check) — GARDEN has letters G,A,R,D,E,N. "grade" needs two... actually GRADE = G,R,A,D,E (all present). RANGE = R,A,N,G,E (all present). DEAR = D,E,A,R (all present). "grand" = G,R,A,N,D (all present) — trick: all are possible, so the odd one is the deliberately-marked answer.
Which longer word is hidden inside "BOGGLE" using adjacent-style letters in order?	bog — BOG appears as the first three letters. The others rearrange or add letters.
Which 4-letter word can be built from adjacent Boggle letters S, T, A, R (in a path)?	star — STAR uses S-T-A-R, four letters, each once. "stars"/"start" need a 5th letter.
Which pair could be consecutive rungs in a ladder (differ by exactly one letter)?	STONE and STORE — STONE → STORE changes N→R (one letter). STORES adds a letter, NOTES rearranges, TONE drops a letter.
The longer a word ladder is,	the more small steps connect the two ends — A longer ladder simply has more one-letter rungs between start and finish.
In Boggle, scoring usually rewards:	longer words more than shorter words — Boggle gives more points for longer words, encouraging you to find bigger ones.
Ladder: BALL → BELL → BELT. The two steps change which letters?	2nd letter, then 4th letter — BALL→BELL changes the 2nd letter (A→E); BELL→BELT changes the 4th (L→T).
Ladder HAND → BAND → BEND: total letters changed across both steps:	2 — HAND→BAND (1st letter) and BAND→BEND (2nd letter) = two changes total.

Word ladder: COLD → CORD → WORD → WARD → WARM. How many steps (changes) is this ladder?	4 — COLD→CORD→WORD→WARD→WARM is four one-letter changes (four arrows).
Finding many words on a Boggle board mostly rewards the skill of:	spotting letter patterns and combinations quickly — Boggle trains fast pattern recognition — seeing which adjacent letters can form words.
A good strategy for solving a word ladder is to:	change the letter that moves you toward the target word — Aim each one-letter change toward matching the target word's letters.
A word ladder from a 3-letter word to another 3-letter word can NEVER include:	a 4-letter word — Every rung must stay the same length, so a 4-letter word can't appear in a 3-letter ladder.
To turn "FIRE" into "FIVE", change:	the 3rd letter (R→V) — FIRE → FIVE changes only the 3rd letter, R to V.
Which is a valid one-letter step from "SHINE"?	SPINE — SHINE → SPINE changes H→P (one letter). SHINES adds a letter, SHIN drops one, NINES rearranges.
Which is a valid middle rung between "HEAD" and "HEAL"?	HEAL is one letter from HEAD already — HEAD and HEAL differ by only their last letter (D→L), so no middle rung is needed.
Ladder CAT → BAT → BAD → BID: the step BAD → BID changes:	the 2nd letter (A→I) — BAD → BID changes only the middle letter, A to I.
In Boggle, a valid word must use letters that:	touch each other (adjacent), each cell once per word — Boggle words are traced through touching (adjacent) letters, using each cell at most once.
Ladder LOVE → LIVE → LIME: the step LIVE → LIME changes:	the 3rd letter (V→M) — LIVE → LIME changes the 3rd letter V to M.
The shortest word ladder between two words that differ by one letter has how many steps?	1 — If they already differ by exactly one letter, a single step connects them.
Boggle and word ladders both build the skill of:	seeing how small letter changes create different words — Both games train you to notice how rearranging or changing letters makes new words.
Ladder: WARM → WORM → WORD. The first step WARM → WORM changes:	the 2nd letter (A→O) — WARM → WORM changes the 2nd letter A to O.

13. etymology

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
"Ketchup" likely came into English from a word in:	a Chinese dialect (via Malay) — Ketchup traces to a Chinese/Malay word for a fish sauce — a well-travelled loanword.
The word "algebra" traces back to:	Arabic — Algebra comes from Arabic "al-jabr" (the reunion of broken parts).
When English borrows a word, it often:	adapts the spelling or pronunciation to fit English — Borrowed words usually get reshaped to fit English sounds and spelling over time.
The word "robot" came into English from:	Czech — Robot comes from Czech "robota" (forced labor), coined in a 1920 play.
"Ballet" and "café" are loanwords from:	French — Ballet and café both came into English from French (note the accent on café).
English "father", German "Vater", and Latin "pater" are:	cognates (from a shared ancestor) — These are cognates — all descend from an ancient shared Indo-European root.
"Piano", "opera", and "pizza" are loanwords from:	Italian — All three came into English from Italian.
"Bungalow" and "shampoo" are loanwords from:	Hindi/Indian languages — Both came into English from Hindi during the era of British contact with India.
English, German, and Dutch are all part of the __ language family.	Germanic — English, German, and Dutch are Germanic languages — they share a common ancestor.
"Tsunami" and "karaoke" are loanwords from:	Japanese — Both tsunami (harbor wave) and karaoke (empty orchestra) came from Japanese.
"Yogurt", "kiosk", and "coffee" entered English from:	Turkish (and nearby languages) — These words came into English from Turkish and neighbouring languages.
The word "chocolate" traces back through Spanish to a word from:	the Aztec (Nahuatl) language — Chocolate comes from Nahuatl "xocolatl", borrowed via Spanish.
"Safari" is a loanword that came into English from:	Swahili — Safari comes from Swahili (originally from Arabic), meaning a journey.
Two words that look alike across languages but mean DIFFERENT things are called:	false cognates (false friends) — False cognates ("false friends") resemble each other but differ in meaning across languages.
"Kindergarten" is a loanword from German meaning:	children's garden — German Kinder (children) + Garten (garden) = children's garden.
Latin and Greek roots are especially common in English words about:	science and academic subjects — Science and academic vocabulary lean heavily on Latin and Greek roots.
English is classified as a __ language, even though it borrowed heavily from French.	Germanic — English is Germanic by descent (grammar + core words), despite huge French vocabulary borrowing.
The word "guitar" travelled into English through Spanish from an earlier __ word.	Greek/Arabic — Guitar traces through Spanish "guitarra" back to Greek "kithara" (with Arabic influence).

Knowing a word's language family can help you:	guess the meaning of related words in other languages — Recognizing cognates across a family helps you decode related words elsewhere.
Tracing borrowed words teaches us that vocabulary is:	a living record of history and human contact — The words a language holds map out its speakers' history of contact and exchange.
When you notice "-tion" endings (nation, action, station), you're seeing a pattern borrowed largely from:	Latin/French — The productive "-tion" suffix came into English through Latin and French.
Borrowed words show that languages:	influence each other through contact and trade — Loanwords are evidence of contact — trade, migration, conquest — between cultures.
A "cognate" is a word that:	shares a common origin with a word in another language — Cognates are related across languages by common descent (English "night", German "Nacht").
French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese are called __ languages because they descend from Latin.	Romance — Romance languages all descend from Latin (the language of Rome).
Words that came into English from many languages make English a:	language family mixture / borrowing language — English has borrowed heavily from French, Latin, Greek, Norse, Arabic, and more.

14. academic vocabulary

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
To "summarize" a passage is to:	give the main points briefly — A summary states the main points concisely in your own words.
A "hypothesis" in an experiment is:	a testable prediction or proposed explanation — A hypothesis is a testable, reasoned prediction you set out to investigate.
"Evidence" in a persuasive essay is:	facts and examples that support a claim — Evidence is the factual support (data, examples, quotes) backing a claim.
A "variable" in an experiment is:	a factor that can change — A variable is any factor that can change or be changed in an experiment.
In social studies, a "primary source" is:	a firsthand record from the time (like a diary or photo) — A primary source is an original, firsthand record from the period being studied.
The word "data" refers to:	facts or information collected for analysis — Data are collected facts/information used as the basis for reasoning.
The word "significant" in a report usually means:	important or large enough to matter — Significant means important — a significant result matters.
To "predict" in science means to:	say what you expect to happen, based on reasoning — Predicting is forecasting an outcome using evidence and reasoning.
"Relevant" information is information that:	relates directly to the topic or question — Relevant means directly connected and useful to the matter at hand.
To "define" a term is to:	state exactly what it means — Defining states the precise meaning of a term.
Understanding academic vocabulary matters because:	these words appear across many subjects and on tests — Tier-2 academic words (analyze, evaluate, infer) recur across subjects and assessments.
To "justify" an answer means to:	give reasons or evidence supporting it — Justifying means backing up your answer with reasons or evidence.
In an equation, a "coefficient" is:	the number multiplied by a variable (as in 3x) — A coefficient is the number in front of a variable — in 3x, the coefficient is 3.
To "compare" two things means to:	examine how they are alike (and often different) — Comparing looks at similarities (and usually differences) between things.
If a question asks you to "contrast" two ideas, you should focus on:	their differences — To contrast is to emphasize differences (while compare emphasizes similarities).
A "source" in research is:	where information comes from — A source is any place (book, website, interview) that provides information.
To "interpret" a graph is to:	explain what it means — Interpreting means explaining the meaning of information, such as what a graph shows.
In math, to "evaluate" an expression means to:	find its value — Evaluating an expression means calculating its numerical value.

A "conclusion" in a report is:	the final judgment based on the evidence — A conclusion is the reasoned result you reach after weighing the evidence.
The word "concept" means:	a general idea or principle — A concept is a broad, general idea (like "gravity" or "democracy").
In an argument, a "claim" is:	a statement you are trying to prove — A claim is the position or statement you argue for and support with evidence.
To "cite" a source means to:	tell readers where information came from — Citing gives credit and tells readers the origin of your information.
The academic word "demonstrate" means to:	show clearly, often with evidence or an example — To demonstrate is to show something clearly, often by proof or example.
In science, "analyze" means to:	examine something in detail by breaking it into parts — To analyze is to break something down and examine its parts closely.
To "infer" means to:	figure out something from evidence and clues — Inferring is drawing a conclusion from evidence rather than being told directly.

15. word relationships

⌕ Question (fold →)	Answer
"Slender", "thin", and "skinny" share a denotation but "skinny" often carries a:	slightly negative connotation — They mean the same (not heavy) but "skinny" can sound negative, while "slender" sounds positive.
To describe an old car kindly, you might call it:	a classic — "Classic" is positive; clunker/wreck/heap are negative.
A word with a NEUTRAL connotation:	carries little positive or negative feeling — Neutral words (like "house" or "group") carry little emotional charge.
Picking the precise word matters most when you want to:	control the feeling your reader gets — Word choice shapes tone and the reader's emotional response.
A news reporter aiming to stay neutral should describe a crowd as a:	group — "Group" is neutral; mob/gang/horde carry negative, threatening connotations.
Which pair has the SAME denotation but OPPOSITE connotations?	thrifty / stingy — Both mean careful with money, but thrifty is positive and stingy is negative.
Denotation and connotation differ in that denotation is __ while connotation is __.	literal ... emotional/associated — Denotation = literal definition; connotation = emotional/associated meaning.
Which word choice makes a leader sound most admirable?	confident — "Confident" is positive; arrogant/cocky/bossy are negative.
Choosing "determined" instead of "stubborn" changes the:	connotation (from negative to positive) — Both describe not giving up, but "determined" praises it while "stubborn" criticizes it.
To describe a smell pleasantly, a writer would choose:	aroma — "Aroma" is positive; odor is neutral-to-negative; stench and reek are strongly negative.
"Assertive" and "pushy" both describe standing up for yourself, but "pushy" is:	more negative — "Assertive" is respected; "pushy" implies going too far — a connotation difference.
"Cheap" and "inexpensive" share a denotation, but "cheap" can imply:	poor quality (negative) — Both mean low-cost, but "cheap" often suggests flimsy/poor quality.
Mastering nuance lets a writer:	say almost the same thing with very different effects — Fine control of connotation lets a writer shade meaning precisely for the intended effect.
The connotation of a word can depend on:	the culture and context it's used in — Connotations shift by culture, era, and context — the same word can feel different in different settings.
Calling a decision "bold" instead of "reckless" makes it sound:	brave and positive rather than dangerous — Both describe risk-taking, but "bold" admires it while "reckless" condemns it.
When two answer choices share a denotation, the best choice is the one whose connotation:	fits the tone the writer wants — Pick the synonym whose emotional shade matches the intended tone.
Which word would a writer choose to make a character seem sneaky?	slithered — "Slithered" connotes sneaky, snake-like movement; the others are neutral.

Denotation stays the same across a synonym set, but connotation:	can vary widely — Synonyms share a core meaning (denotation) but differ in connotation.
"Youthful" vs "immature": both relate to being young, but "immature" connotes:	acting too childishly (negative) — "Youthful" praises youthful energy; "immature" criticizes childish behavior.
Which word has the most POSITIVE connotation for a person who speaks a lot?	talkative — "Talkative" is fairly neutral/positive; gabby and mouthy are negative.
The CONNOTATION of a word is:	the feeling or association it carries — Connotation is the emotional or cultural association a word suggests.
A writer who wants to make a house sound welcoming should call it a:	home — "Home" has warm connotations of belonging; the others are neutral/technical.
The DENOTATION of a word is its:	exact dictionary meaning — Denotation is the literal, dictionary definition of a word.
A poet choosing "shattered" instead of "broke" wants to add a feeling of:	sudden, violent breaking — "Shattered" connotes a sudden, dramatic break — stronger than the neutral "broke".
"Frugal" carries a __ connotation compared with "cheap".	more positive — Frugal praises sensible saving; cheap implies poor quality/stinginess.

16. wordplay synthesis

⌘ Question (fold →)	Answer
"Aqua-" (aquarium) means water; "geo-" (geography) means:	earth — "geo" = earth.
The root in "telescope" and "telephone" (tele-) means:	far — "tele" means far/distant.
Crossword clue: "The study of living things" (7 letters)	biology — Biology (study of life) has 7 letters. bio = life.
Which word can be made from the letters of "MASTER"?	stream — STREAM uses M-A-S-T-E-R exactly. (TAMERS also works.)
Crossword clue: "A shape with eight sides" (7 letters)	octagon — An octagon has eight sides and 7 letters. "oct-" means eight.
Which word choice makes a smell sound pleasant?	fragrance — "Fragrance" is positive; the others are neutral-to-negative.
Which sentence is a METAPHOR?	Her voice was music. — "Was music" is a metaphor (no like/as). "Like music" is a simile; "sang out" is personification.
The suffix "-ology" means:	the study of — "-ology" = the study of (biology, geology).
An anagram of "RESCUE" is:	secure — SECURE uses R-E-S-C-U-E exactly. (RECUSE also works.)
"As quiet as a mouse" is a:	simile — It compares using "as" — a simile.
The idiom "throw in the towel" means:	give up — "Throw in the towel" means to quit or surrender.
"Tsunami" is a loanword from:	Japanese — Tsunami (harbor wave) comes from Japanese.
"Careless" + "-ly" = "carelessly", which is a(n):	adverb (tells how) — Adding -ly makes an adverb: carelessly tells HOW something is done.
Which word is the STRONGEST in meaning?	furious — "Furious" is the most intense form of angry; the others are milder.
"Predictable" = pre- + dict + -able. The root "dict" means:	say / speak — "dict" = say/speak (predict = say beforehand).
Which word has a more NEGATIVE connotation?	stubborn — "Stubborn" is negative; the others praise the same trait.
"Photograph" literally means:	writing/drawing with light — photo (light) + graph (write) = light-writing.
The big idea of WordForge is that:	words are built, connected, and shaded — you can figure them out with the right tools — Prefixes, roots, suffixes, anagrams, ladders, origins, and connotation are tools that let you decode and choose words with skill.
"Disrespectful" contains the prefix "dis-", which means:	not / opposite of — "dis-" = not/opposite (disrespectful = not respectful).

"Unbreakable" breaks into which parts?	un- + break + -able — un- (not) + break + -able (able to be) = not able to be broken.
"The alarm screamed until I woke up" gives the alarm a human action. This is:	personification — Alarms can't scream like people — personification.
The denotation of a word is its __; the connotation is its __.	dictionary meaning; emotional feeling — Denotation = literal meaning; connotation = emotional association.
Which is a valid one-letter ladder step from "PLANT"?	PLANK — PLANT → PLANK changes T→K (one letter). PLANTS adds a letter; PANT drops one; PLANE changes two.
"Kindergarten" is a loanword from:	German — German Kinder + Garten = children's garden.
In a word ladder, WARM → WARD → WORD → CORD → COLD has how many steps?	4 — Four arrows = four one-letter steps.

Keep going

You practiced **400 cards** from WordForge. Come back to the ones you missed — spaced-out practice makes them stick.

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