

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
Introduction	1
1 Words to Describe People I <i>opsimath • agelast • losel • nebbish • cruciverbalist</i>	5
2 Earls Who Became Words (or Places That Became Words) <i>orrery • cadogan • Oxfordian • derby • Yarborough</i>	9
3 Words Having Origins in Chess <i>zugzwang • checkmate • gambit • stalemate • endgame</i>	14
4 Words That Appear to Be Misspellings of Everyday Words I <i>passible • monestrous • cloture • nutriment • assoil</i>	18
5 Archaic Words <i>clepe • sennight • anon • gainsay • hearken</i>	21
6 Toponyms <i>Chautauqua • Pax Romana • Gibraltar • seltzer • Kilkenny cats</i>	24

7	Words about Books and Writing <i>roman à clef • orihon • amphigory • conspectus • magnum opus</i>	28
8	Words Borrowed from Yiddish <i>chutzpah • mensch • zaftig • kvetch • schlep</i>	31
9	Terms from the World of Law <i>estoppel • laches • solatium • sui juris • mittimus</i>	36
10	Words That Appear to Be Misspellings of Everyday Words II <i>eagre • imprest • endue • biennial • quacksalver</i>	40
11	Words Borrowed from Arabic <i>alembic • nadir • jihad • houri • talisman</i>	44
12	Words Formed Erroneously <i>niddering • obsidian • helpmeet • zenith • derring-do</i>	48
13	What's in a Name? <i>randy • tony • ted • bobby • brad</i>	52
14	Words from Poetry <i>cataract • dreary • nosegay • collyrium • tarry</i>	56
15	Fishy Words <i>minnow • gudgeon • remora • inconnu • tope</i>	61
16	Discover the Theme I <i>ubiety • irade • ambit • estival • lanate</i>	66
17	Terms Employing Various Nationalities <i>French leave • Chinese wall • Roman holiday • Irish bull • Dutch auction</i>	71
18	Words with Double Connections <i>diplopia • double entendre • ambisace • satchel • doppelgänger</i>	75

19	Words Related to the Calendar	79
	<i>ides • bissextile • Greek calends • menology • fin de siècle</i>	
20	False Friends	83
	<i>sacrilegious • scission • oust • impregnable • mellifluous</i>	
21	Red-Herring Words	87
	<i>undulate • fartlek • conversant • assize • valorize</i>	
22	Words Related to the Human Body	90
	<i>nares • oxter • pollex • nevus • glossal</i>	
23	Words Related to Buying and Selling	93
	<i>emptor • nummary • duopoly • monopsony • chandler</i>	
24	Miscellaneous Words	98
	<i>astrobleme • pudency • aporia • remontant • loricat</i>	
25	Words That Have Changed Meaning with Time	101
	<i>demagogue • decimate • feisty • egregious • officious</i>	
26	Words about Words	107
	<i>hapax legomenon • metaphor • vulgat • hyperbole • metaplas</i>	
27	Anglo-Saxon Words	111
	<i>meed • fen • lief • fain • wight</i>	
28	Words Borrowed from Other Languages	115
	<i>cumshaw • smorgasbord • baksheesh • taboo • honcho</i>	
29	Words from Medicine	118
	<i>sequela • nosology • idiopathy • placebo • nyctalopia</i>	
30	Numeric Terms	123
	<i>sixty-four-dollar question • eighty-six • twenty-twenty • deep-six • catch-22</i>	

31	Kangaroo Words <i>indolent • rapscallion • amicable • frangible • scion</i>	132
32	What Does That Company Name Mean? <i>cingular • lucent • prudential • vanguard • suppurate</i>	135
33	Words with Interesting Etymologies <i>erudite • sobriquet • indite • pentimento • cockamamie</i>	139
34	Words to Describe People II <i>scrofulous • ugsome • gormless • scalawag • sciolist</i>	143
35	Words about Collecting and the Study of Things <i>scripophily • deltiology • exonumia • notaphily • vexillology</i>	147
36	Words from the World of Law II <i>voir dire • en banc • parol • depone • distraint</i>	150
37	Words Derived from Other Languages <i>sangfroid • dragoman • hinterland • apparat • Blighty</i>	153
38	Words about Words II <i>exonym • mononym • cryptonym • teknonym • matronym</i>	156
39	Words Borrowed from African Languages <i>zombie • veld • juju • spoor • mumbo jumbo</i>	161
40	Metallic Words Used as Metaphors <i>goldbrick • silver bullet • brassy • leaden • tin ear</i>	165
41	Words Related to Movies <i>bogart • cinematheque • jeune premier • McGuffin • cineaste</i>	170
42	Discover the Theme II <i>extemporize • impresario • macroscopic • postdiluvian • plausible</i>	174

43 Miscellaneous Words II	178
<i>telic • saltant • conurbation • trade-last • tardigrade</i>	
44 Words That Aren't What They Appear to Be	182
<i>beestings • pythoness • lambent • redoubt • archimage</i>	
45 Words of Horse-Related Origins	185
<i>desultory • equitant • tattersall • spavined • hors de combat</i>	
46 Words of Horse-Related Origins II	189
<i>cheval-de-frise • Hobson's choice • harridan • cheval de bataille • cavalier</i>	
47 Words with Origins in War	192
<i>nom de guerre • antebellum • polemic • bellicose • casus belli</i>	
48 Words from Latin	196
<i>stat • ceteris paribus • qua • terra firma • via media</i>	
49 Words to Describe Your Opponents	200
<i>facinorous • ventripotent • dasypygal • saponaceous • yegg</i>	
50 Discover the Theme III	204
<i>orotund • draggle • trunnel • pinnate • lability</i>	
51 Words Borrowed from Native American Languages	207
<i>sachem • wampum • high-muck-a-muck • manitou • powwow</i>	
52 Loanwords from Spanish	211
<i>amigo • loco • duende • disembugue • armada</i>	
<i>Answers</i>	215
<i>Web Resources: More Fun with Words</i>	219
<i>Index of Words</i>	221

