

Linguistics 110  
Etymology Exercise

Consult at least the following works:

*The Oxford English Dictionary*, online (from a UCLA computer <http://www.oed.com/>). Or go to <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/search/1450.cfm>; then scroll down and click on the OED (enter your word in the box and click “go”; on the next screen move the cursor to the entry you want and then click on “view full entry”).

Watkins, Calvert. 2011. *The American Heritage Dictionary of Indo-European Roots* P615 .A43 2011 (in YRL Reference and in Powell)

TO BE FAIR TO EACH OTHER, USE THE WATKINS BOOK IN THE LIBRARY AND RETURN IT CAREFULLY TO THE SHELF AFTER USE! REMEMBER, \*YOU\* MAY BE THE ONE WHO NEEDS IT URGENTLY!

(1) Using the online OED, find the earliest citation of the word *in the sense used in the article*, then the oldest citation of the word in English. I need only the date (you may ignore the source and quotation). **The first meaning listed is not always the oldest. So scroll down until you're sure you have the oldest.** In some cases this may mean looking up the word as a different part of speech. That is, if your usage is as a noun, but the verb is older, give me the earliest date for each. Use common sense! English has many words spelled alike. If your word is the adjective ‘swift’ (speedy, fast), be sure you are looking up the OED article for the adjective (marked with “a.”). Do not tell me about one of the obscure nouns with that spelling.

(2) Using the online OED itself and the Watkins, try to find the etymology of the word. In the online OED it will either say “Common Germanic” (that will tell you that the word is inherited into English from PIE through Germanic) or will use the symbol “<” to indicate that the word is borrowed and say from where. In Watkins just look up the word in the main part and then go to the root in the back that is given, if any. If none is given, just say so. Be careful! Remember that English *comes from* PIE through Germanic. English may have borrowed a word from Latin or Greek, but it does *not* come from them. And in Watkins the PIE root **is** the ultimate source. **PIE does not come from Latin or Greek!** If you're not sure whether one of these works is citing words from Greek and Latin merely as *cognates* of the English or as the *source* of the English word, **ask me**.  
Because:

(3) Your main assignment is to try to learn whether the word is: (a) inherited from PIE through Germanic into English; (b) simply appears in English or Germanic with no good PIE source; (c) is from PIE but borrowed via French, Latin etc.; (d) borrowed from a non-PIE source (perhaps via some IE intermediary). There are also complicated cases where a word went from PIE into Germanic, then was borrowed into French and back into English or came through Germanic into Old Norse and was borrowed into English. A word may also come from French, Latin, etc. but have no history beyond that.

(4) There are other online sources for English etymology. Feel free to use them, but their quality is variable, so use them *in addition* to the ones given above, *not* instead of them!

(5) Please write up your findings in a concise, but readable form (i.e., use complete sentences).