

LANGUAGE AND WORDPLAY QUIZ



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1> From the Latin verb "lucubrare", meaning, "to work by lamplight", lucubration is typically used for what kind of work?

- a. Deep conversation
- b. Intense study
- c. Mechanical repair
- d. Yard work and formwork

2> The original dog-and-pony show was a circus act, which often was based on a "one-trick pony". What, typically, is a dog-and-pony show today?

- a. A sales presentation
- b. A comedy routine
- c. A fashion runway
- d. A TV pundit debate

3> Used in Catholic confessions, what does "mea culpa" mean in Latin?

- a. Forgive me
- b. Not in my right mind
- c. Through my fault
- d. Caught in the act

4> Many would disagree, but if you were to describe George W Bush as flagitious, what are you saying about him?

- a. He is scandalously villainous
- b. He openly breaks the rules
- c. He beats himself up over his mistakes
- d. He enjoys being whipped

5> Terpsichore was one of the Muses, and today something terpsichorean refers to what artistic act?

- a. Writing poetry
- b. Sculpting
- c. Dancing
- d. Playing music

6> Somebody empty-headed and dull might be vapid, but what did "vapid" refer to originally?

- a. Liquor
- b. Countryside
- c. Oceans
- d. Books

7> The adjective "mantic" comes from the Greek word "mantis", as in the praying mantis insect, and is used in the suffix "-mancy". What is something that is mantic?

- a. Prophetic
- b. Holy
- c. Tiny
- d. Creepy

8> If you are railing, you're attacking something with harsh language. If you are using raillery instead, what are you doing?

- a. Complimenting it in a backhanded way
- b. Poking good-natured fun at it
- c. Praising it excessively
- d. Comparing its pros and cons

9> Climacteric can also refer specifically to menopause or to ripening fruit. What does the adjective mean generally?

- a. Something religious
- b. Something that tastes good
- c. Something that is a major turning point
- d. Something that is dangerous

10> Something hackneyed is unoriginal. But what is a hackney?

- a. A game in which a bag is tossed with the feet
- b. A horse for riding or driving
- c. A taxi driver
- d. An unqualified journalist

11> Rhythms is the longest word without any of the standard five vowels. What letter acts as a vowel in "rhythms"?

- a. M
- b. H
- c. Y
- d. T

12> Evacuate, vacation, vacancy, vacuum and vacuous all come the Latin adjective "vacare". What does that adjective mean?

- a. Withdrawn
- b. Empty
- c. Relaxed
- d. Sleepy

13> Provoke, evoke, revoke, equivocate, vociferous and vocation all comes the Latin verb "vocare". What does it mean?

- a. To debate
- b. To think
- c. To call
- d. To work

14> Nouns, verbs ... easy stuff. But which kind of word is "which"?

- a. Adverb
- b. Pronoun
- c. Article
- d. Conjunction

15> The longest isogram in which all the letters are in alphabetical order is aegilops. What is an aegilops?

- a. A hair in the ear or nose
- b. A genus known as goat grass
- c. A lozenge-shaped shield
- d. A rhetorical device

Answers:

- 1> Intense study - It can also refer to a piece of over elaborate writing.
- 2> A sales presentation - The term first appeared in the late-19th and early-20th centuries.
- 3> Through my fault - The origin of the expression is from a prayer of confession used in Roman Catholic Church Masses.
- 4> He is scandalously villainous - Synonyms would be infamous, criminal or felonious.
- 5> Dancing - Terpsichore ruled over dance and the dramatic chorus.
- 6> Liquor - Synonyms for vapid would be flat, tasteless or dull.
- 7> Prophetic - It can also refer to a sibylline book that has foolproof answers to questions.
- 8> Poking good-natured fun at it - From Old French railler, meaning to tease.
- 9> Something that is a major turning point - The climacteric is a stage of fruit ripening associated with ethylene production.
- 10> A horse for riding or driving - The Hackney Horse is a recognized breed of horse that was developed in Great Britain.
- 11> Y - Depending on the word, Y represents either a vowel or a consonant in English.
- 12> Empty - Synonyms for vacare would be void, vacant or unoccupied.
- 13> To call - The Latin phrase 'vocare ad regnum' means 'call to the kingdom'.
- 14> Pronoun - A pronoun is a word, or form, that substitutes for a noun or noun phrase.
- 15> A genus known as goat grass - There are approximately 23 species and numerous sub species in the genus.