

The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way, by Bill Bryson
Test #2

1. "Tootle him with _____."
 - a. vigor
 - b. urgency
 - c. diligence
 - d. exuberance

2. The first crossword puzzle appeared in *New York World* on what date?
 - a. December 21, 1883
 - b. December 21, 1893
 - c. December 21, 1903
 - d. December 21, 1913

3. What modern word in English is taken from the Italian word *garbuzo*, which was taken from the Old Italian word *garbuglio*, which was taken from the Latin *bullire*?
 - a. grab
 - b. garble
 - c. garbage
 - d. garbanzo

4. The American "O.K." first appeared in print on _____ in *The Boston Morning Post*.
 - a. March 23, 1819
 - b. March 23, 1829
 - c. March 23, 1839
 - d. March 23, 1849

5. In 1906, the philanthropist _____ donated \$250,000 to establish the Simplified Spelling Board.
 - a. Andrew Carnegie
 - b. J. P. Morgan
 - c. John Jacob Astor
 - d. Charles M. Schwab

6. According to this book, what is the agreed international language of discourse for 157 nations out of 168 in the world?
 - a. Latin
 - b. English
 - c. German
 - d. Esperanto

7. The *-chester* in Manchester and the *-caster* in Lancaster both derive from the Roman word for what?
- camp
 - town
 - hill
 - lake
8. The following words (and 1,685 others) are original to the writings of _____, apparently created by him: *critical, leapfrog, monumental, majestic, obscene, frugal, radiance, hint, hurry, dwindle, lonely, summit, excellent*
- Jonson
 - Chaucer
 - Cervantes
 - Shakespeare
9. Using ideographic Chinese radicals, the way to write "quarrel" depicts two _____, and "gossip" is three _____.
- birds
 - goats
 - women
 - mosquitos
10. In 1987, a hoard of lead "curse tablets" was found near a spring dedicated to which goddess?
- Pax
 - Juno
 - Minerva
 - Bellona
11. History tells us the printing press was invented by Johann Gutenberg, but there is reason to believe nonmovable type was actually invented by a Dutchman named _____?
- Peter Schoffer
 - Andreas Dritzman
 - Andreas Heilmann
 - Laurens Janszoon Koster
12. Which popular 19th century writer became enamored of the "phonographic alphabet" invented by Isaac Pitman?
- Mark Twain
 - Jack London
 - Herman Melville
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne

13. Which of these did Noah Webster NOT do?
- led his church choir
 - founded Boston College
 - proffered unwanted advice to politicians
 - authored *The American Dictionary of the English Language*
14. An analysis of speech at the Bell Telephone Laboratories by Dr. John R. Pierce detected more than _____ separate sounds just for the letter *t*.
- 60
 - 70
 - 80
 - 90
15. According to this book, in India there are more than _____ newspapers written in English?
- 1000
 - 2000
 - 3000
 - 4000
16. The study of names is _____?
- onomastics
 - linguistics
 - diachronics
 - ileomostics
17. Across the pond in England, "to hump" is to what?
- to camp
 - to hike
 - to swive
 - to carry a heavy load
18. To what does this quote by Charles Laird refer? "Most speakers of other languages are not aware that such books exist."
- books of sonnets
 - books of limericks
 - books of synonyms
 - book of onomatopoeias
19. In Southern Utah, around St. George, people speak a dialect called _____.
- Dixie
 - Deseret
 - Zionese
 - Elderspeak

20. These are all _____ in England: Shoulder of Mutton, Hope and Anchor, Romping Donkey, Flying Spoon, Man with a Load of Mischief
- a. pubs
 - b. towns
 - c. streets
 - d. horses