

# The right word, the right way, every time

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A good command of English is the key to success in the modern world. Success at school, at work, in business, and in social life depends on being able to use words correctly, persuasively and most importantly, confidently. Driven by its status as the world language, English is constantly changing, developing and adapting itself with borrowings from other languages, computer speak and pop-culture.

Most challenging of all, is to remember the meaning of different words that look and spell the same. For example, how many meanings are there of the word 'close'? Answer: at least ten.

**to (cause something to) change from  
being open to not being open**

**to (cause something to) end**

**having direct family connections or shared beliefs, support, and sympathy**

All of us have at least, once come across one such word in English Comprehension during our paper that confuses us. And often we answer questions regarding that word through guess work. So, what is the solution for having a better vocabulary? We obviously can't memorise every single word of the dictionary. Application of knowledge of Etymology is one of the solutions.

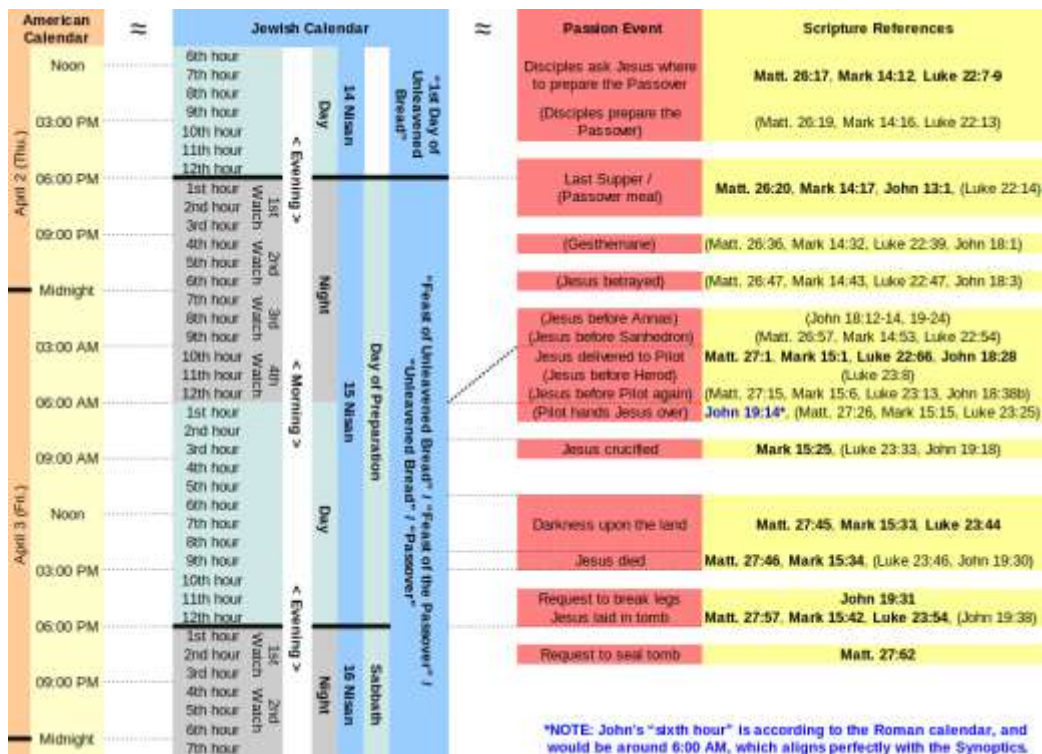
**Etymology** is the study of the history of words. By extension, the phrase "the etymology of [a word]" means the origin of a particular word.

Roots, prefixes and suffixes are important part of this study. For example, the prefix- Chron means time. Let us see some commonly used words formed with the prefix Chron.

Chronological means in order of time. Synchronize means to put something on the same time table and Anachronism means to put something that is chronological out of place.

Chron means time

1. Chronological
2. Synchronize
3. Anachronism



## Chronological

... (of a record of events) following the order in which they occurred.

"the entries are in **chronological order**"



## Synchronize

... cause to occur or operate at the same time or rate.

"soldiers used watches to synchronize movements"



## Anachronism

... a thing belonging or appropriate to a period other than that in which it exists, especially a thing that is conspicuously old-fashioned.

"the town is a throwback to medieval times, an anachronism that has survived the passing years"

Etymology can help one understand languages better. It can also teach one about the common root of words in several different languages. That often means that one can recognise words in other languages without being told exactly what they mean. It is interesting to learn about the history behind words we use in our everyday life.

The word “**candle**” is formed with the help of the prefix **Cand** which means ‘to burn’.



Etymology might not be the ultimate solution for having a great vocabulary. However, regularly practising, investing time and efforts into learning always helps. And as Michael Angelo Batio said, “I think no matter how much you learn, there is always more to learn”.

Sources: ALL PICS: [Creative commons](#)

[Meanings: Oxford Dictionary](#)