

SOME ENGLISH WORDS OF ARABIC ORIGINS

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ABSTRACT

The analysis of the origin of English words that were borrowed from the Arabic is given in the article. The article provides an analysis of the origin of English words borrowed from Arabic. The basis and base of this study is the etymological analysis of English words of Arabic origin. It was explained which language the words came from. For more than years, Arabic was the primary international language of commerce, politics and scholarship, much as English is today. Over the centuries, English adopted many words that were borrowed directly from Arabic here are some English words with Arabic origins.

Keywords: *english, arabic, language, borrow, word, commerce, politic, scholarship, admiral, alchemy, algebra, jumper, serendipity, cotton, nadir, orange, macrame, mohair, safari, sugar, coffe, monsoon, lemon, tariff, elixir, mattress, castle, syrup, ghoul, carat, kohl, loofah, jar.*

English is currently one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Few languages in history have been the primary international language. No language develops 100% without borrowing words from another language. Therefore, any language borrows words from another. For more than 10 centuries, Arabic was the primary international language of commerce, politics and scholarship, much as English is today. Over the centuries, English adopted many words that were borrowed directly from Arabic here are some English words with Arabic origins. For example:

Admiral: amīr أمير

Admiral is the highest rank in a navy. The term is used internationally by many countries. It derives originally from the Arabic word amīr (commander), and came to English by way of Old French and Latin.

Alchemy: al-kīmiyā الكيمياء

The ancient branch of philosophy known as alchemy involved the study of substances and materials. Medieval alchemists believed that some liquids could be

turned to gold, or a potion that would make its drinker immortal. The original Arabic word stems from the Greek term “khemeia”, though some scholars also trace its roots back to ancient Egypt.

Algebra: Aljabr الجَبْر

Founded by Jaber bin Heyan, the field of Algebra or Aljabr (الجَبْر) as it was originally named is one of the most important branch of mathematics in which letters & symbols are used to represent unknown numbers.

Jumper: jubbah جُبَّة

The Arabic word for overcoat originally entered European languages as “juppah”, valuable silk clothing, in southern Italy in the 11th century.

Serendipity: serendib سرنديب

The ancient fairy tale place of Serendib, which appears in 1001 Nights was also the old Arabic name for the island of Sri Lanka. The English word serendipity meaning a fortunate discovery coined by author Horace Walpole in 1754.

Cotton: qutun قطن

Though cotton was known to the ancient Romans, the word and the fabric were imported by Arab merchants to Europe in the late Middle Ages Artwork Hassan Massoudy.

Nadir: nazir نظير

In English, a nadir refers to the worst moment, or the point at which something is of the least value. But in Arabic, the word means a counterpart, and was used in medieval Islamic astronomy to refer to the diametrically opposing points of a celestial sphere.

Orange: naranj نارنج

Though both the fruit and the word came from India, Arabs introduced oranges to the Mediterranean region. For many southern European countries today, they are considered a staple fruit.

Macrame: miqrama مقرمة

This type of knotted textile used in craft and high fashion originates from the hand-loomed fabrics of Arabic weavers. In Arabic, miqrama refers to an embroidered tapestry or bedspread.

Mohair: al-mokhayyar المخير

In Arabic, al-mokhayyar was a high-quality cloth made of fine goat hair. Various forms of it were imported to the West for centuries, the most famous being the wool made from Angora goats of Turkey.

Safari: safar سفر

The English adopted the Swahili word for journey – safari – in the 19th century. for their hunting expeditions in East Africa. The origins of the word are from the Arabic “safar” or “journey”.

Sugar: sukkar سكر

Another word to have travelled the Silk Road is sugar, which was originally produced in India. By the sixth century, sugar cane cultivation reached Persia & was brought into the Mediterranean by the Arabs.

Coffee: Qahwa قهوة

Originating from Qahwa (قهوة), the Arab world has not only given us the most common drink, but the name has also been derived from Arabic.

Monsoon: mawsim موسم

Early Arab sea merchants on the Indian Ocean rim used the word mawsim or seasons to refer to the seasonal sailing winds. Later, the word was adopted by English sailors as they navigated extreme weather conditions.

Lemon: Laymoon ليمون

The Arabic word Laymoon (ليمون) has taken the shape of lemon.

Tariff: ta'riff تعريف

A tariff in Medieval Arabic means a notification. It was introduced to western languages around the 14th century through commerce on the Mediterranean Sea, where it referred to the bill of lading on a merchant ship, or the statement of products and prices for sale.

Elixir: al-iksir الإكسير

Today, an elixir is a liquid remedy with healing powers. In Arabic, it originally referred to a dry powder for treating wounds. It was later adopted by alchemists who referred to an elixir as the elusive mineral powder that turns metals into gold.

Mattress: Matrah مطرح

Sleeping on cushions was actually an Arabic invention. Were it not for Arabic matrah, a place where the cushions were thrown down, the Europeans would never have adopted materacium/materatium (Latin) which passed through Italian into English as mattress.

Castle: Qasr قصر

The word “castle” comes from the Arabic term “Qasr” with the same meaning; a great construction Artwork Nja Mahdaoui.

Syrup: sharab شراب

Of course if Arabic gave us sugar and candy, it also gave us syrup. In this case, the original is sharab, which refers to a beverage: wine, fruit juice, or something sweeter.

Ghoul: ghuul غول

This word used to describe an evil being that feeds on the bodies of the deceased comes from the Arabic word ghūl, which is in turn rooted in the verb ghāla “to seize”.

Carat: qirat قيراط

In English, we use the term to measure every 200 mg of gemstones and pearls and the Arabic word, pronounced “qi:ra:t”, means “small weight”.

Kohl: kohul كحل

It's been used since ancient times to darken the eyelids & in modern times, the charcoal product is embraced across the world for use in makeup products. Pronounced kohul, it comes from the Arabic word “kah'ala” for stain or paint.

Loofah: lufah ليفة استحمام

The Egyptian Arabic word “lu:fah” comes from the fibrous plant whose pods can be used as sponges.

Jar: jarra جرّة

Jarra, is an upright container made of pottery. First records in English are in 1418 & 1421 as a container for olive oil. Arabic jarra was used in earlier centuries.