

QUIZ

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ABLE syn see IMAGINARY
quiz \-i-k(ə-)\le\ adv
person 2: PRACTICAL JOK
short oral or written test
2quiz vt quizzed; quizzing
look at inquisitively 3:
quiz-master \-i-keɪ-ˈmɑːstər
quiz-master in a quiz show
quiz show a television show
in which contestants are
quizzed on general knowledge
contestant a person who
takes part in a quiz show

- 1 *Even the most common words were once fresh and unusual. Have you ever wondered how words enter a language? How they get their meanings?*
- 2 *Here is a story about the "birth" of a word. It is a word students hear regularly at school. The story may not be absolutely true. However, it shows how words appear and begin to be used.*
- 3 One day a man named James Daly from Dublin, Ireland, decided to have some fun with his friends. He announced that he would invent a word. He said that the whole town would immediately use his word.
- 4 His friends were familiar with this type of talk from James. They took most of his announcements with a grain of salt. But James meant what he said this time. He knew he would have them saying his word very soon.
- 5 How did he do it? First he made up a word. Then he hired some local boys and girls. He gave each child a piece of chalk and asked the children to write his new word on every sidewalk and crosswalk in town. Jim went to bed that night confident that his word would be the talk of the town.
- 6 The next day, just as he had said, his new word was being used. As people walked to work and school, they saw the word in chalk everywhere. They repeated his creation to themselves.
- 7 What was the word? *Quiz*. Jim had proved himself to his friends.
- 8 James Daly's word is still with us. But its meaning is no longer a mystery. *To quiz* means "to question." A *quiz* is a short test. Now the biggest mystery about a quiz is what the questions will be!

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story is really about
 - a how some people think *quiz* became a word.
 - b a contest in Dublin.
- 2 James Daly's new word caught on because
 - a he told a lot of people to go around saying the new word.
 - b people could not go anywhere without seeing the new word.

3 When people take something with a "grain of salt," it means

- a they are doubtful.
- b there is extra seasoning on it.

4 To be the "talk of the town" is to be

- a someone who talks a lot.
- b the main thing being talked about.

5 Today *to quiz* means

- a "to trick."
- b "to question."

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.)

Write the word.

- 1 rare; not ordinary (1)
- 2 to make for the first time (3)
- 3 employed; paid for working (5)
- 4 having trust or faith in oneself (5)
- 5 something unknown or unexplained (8)

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

6 How words enter a language is often a _____.

7 It is difficult to _____ a word people will use.

8 James was _____ his plan would work.

9 James _____ some children who were glad to make some money.

10 "How _____ !" people said when they saw James's word for the first time.

THINK ABOUT IT

D A contraction is a short way of writing words. An apostrophe (') shows where letters are left out.

we'll is made from *we will*

I've is made from *I have*

Read each sentence. Make a contraction from the two underlined words. Write the contraction.

- 1 James Daly said, "I will teach people to believe me."
- 2 "You will never be able to do that," said a friend.
- 3 James said, "They will all be using the word tomorrow."
- 4 The next day people said, "You have surprised us all."
- 5 I have never heard the story of the word *quiz* before.

E Roger is going to write about why the dictionary is a useful book. Read each item. If it fits his main topic, write *Yes*. If it doesn't, write *No*.

- 6 Find out where words come from
- 7 Learn new words
- 8 Ask the teacher for help
- 9 Read a good story
- 10 Check the spelling of words