

LESSON 9: WORDS DERIVED FROM PLACE NAMES

1. sherry

2. china

3. attic

4. arabesque

5. blarney

6. meander

7. parchment

8. cologne

Common Nouns Derived From Place Names, pp. 210-211 (IV)

1. **bantam** “miniature, diminutive” - from Bantam, a village in west Java in Indonesia, where this chicken is supposed to have originated.
2. **bayonet** “a dagger-like weapon fitted onto the front of a rifle” - from French *baionette*, from the French city of Bayonne, where the weapon was first made or used.
3. **bungalow** “a one-story dwelling with a low-sloping roof and wide veranda” - from Hindustani *bengla*, which means “belonging to Bengal, or Bengalese.”
4. **bunk** “nonsense” - a clip from *bunkum*; also spelled *buncombe*, from Buncombe County, North Carolina, whose congressman F. Walker, of the 16th Congress (1819-21), made tiresome speeches, “for Buncombe.”
5. **currant** “small, seedless raisin or acid berry” - originally *raisins de Corauntz*, through Anglo-French, from French *raisins de Corinths*, which means “raisins of Corinth.”
6. **dollar** “unit of currency” - from German *taler*, a clip of *joachimstaler* (or *-thaler*; the German ‘th’ is pronounced like ‘t’), a coin minted at Joachimsthal in Bohemia.
7. **gypsy** (also British *gipsy*) “an independent or itinerant worker” - a shortened and altered form of Egyptian, from a belief that gypsies originally came from Egypt.
8. **magenta** “a purplish shade of red” - from the town of Magenta in northern Italy where the French and Sardinians defeated the Austrians in the Battle of Magenta in 1859, the same year the dye was discovered. Apparently the dye was given this name for no other reason.
9. **milliner** “a seller of hats, most often a woman” - a variant of the now obsolete *Milaner*, a dealer in goods from Milan (Italy), known for women's finery in the 16th century.
10. **peach** “a sweet, juicy fruit” - through French *peche*, from Latin *persica*, neuter plural of *persicum* (*malum*), meaning “Persian (apple)”, from Greek *persikos*.
11. **spaniel** “a medium-sized dog with long hair and large drooping ears” - from Old French *espagneul* meaning “Spanish,” from Latin *Hispania*, cf. Old French *espagnol* “Spanish dog.”
12. **spruce** “evergreen tree” - from Old French *Pruce*, from *Prussia*, an area of Germany famous for this type of timber tree.
13. **tarantula** “large, venomous spider” - from Italian *tarantola*, from the Italian city Taranto, near which the spider lives. Its bite was supposed to cause tarantism, a disorder (associated with Taranto) in which patients dance uncontrollably.
14. **turquoise** “blue, bluish-green, or greenish-gray” - from Middle English *turkeis*, from Middle French *turquoyse* from (*pierre*) *turquoise*, meaning “Turkish stone.”
15. **tuxedo** “formal evening wear for men” - from Tuxedo Park, New York, where the garment was reputedly first worn.