

3/20/22

# Words Borrowed from Arabic

---

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes  
Number of players: Unlimited  
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers  
Suitable for visually impaired players.

## Overview:

Did you know that *apricot*, *crimson*, *hazard*, *jar*, and *tariff* are all originally Arabic words? In this word definition game, you will discover many other words that English has borrowed from Arabic.

## Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

3/20/22

# Words Borrowed from Arabic

**INSTRUCTIONS:** All the answers in this quiz are words that the English language has borrowed from Arabic.

---

1. No matter what the brand is, this is good to the last drop!
2. The only number that's neither positive nor negative – basically, it's nothing.
3. A frozen dessert usually made of fruit or fruit juices.
4. Crop that was the backbone of the pre-Civil War southern economy.
5. Lee Harvey Oswald or John Wilkes Booth, for example.
6. The primary instrument used in flamenco, folk, country, and rock music.
7. A fruit ... and, a bad automobile.
8. This basic cosmetic supplies longer, thicker, eyelashes.
9. In this branch of mathematics, kids learn about polynomials and symbols for unknown numbers. For example:  $3x + 1 = 10$ .
10. This colorless liquid is the intoxicating constituent in beer, wine, and other spirits.
11. The word that puts an end to any chess game.
12. The basic ingredient of most sweet foods.
13. The original Arabic word means raw silk; but we use it more often to describe the loosely woven cloth used to dress wounds.
14. A light purple color ... and the shrub that blooms in May with an abundance of fragrant light purple flowers.
15. Annual booklet that's usually published in calendar form and often contains weather and climate information. (It used to be a farmer's favorite read.)
16. The art of knotting ropes and textiles to make hammocks, belts, plant hangars, and so on.
17. A percussion instrument that usually has a drumskin for hitting and metal discs along the edge that jingle when shaken.
18. The original meaning of this word was a storage place for arms and ammunition; but today, it's more commonly used for a weekly or monthly publication.
19. The highest rank that can be achieved in the US Navy or Coast Guard.
20. A common legume ... or *The Young Rascals* character with an enormous cowlick.
21. The tallest of all land mammals, it stands nearly 6 feet tall when it's born.
22. These shiny, plastic discs are sewn or woven into clothing for decoration.
23. You can't play tennis without one of these in your hand.

3/20/22

# Words Borrowed from Arabic

---

## ANSWERS

*(Note: The phonetic version of the Arabic origin is in parenthesis.)*

1. Coffee (qahwa)
2. Zero (sifr)
3. Sherbet (sharba)
4. Cotton (qutn)
5. Assassin (hashashin)
6. Guitar (qiithaar)
7. Lemon (laymuun)
8. Mascara (maskhara)
9. Algebra (al-jabr)
10. Alcohol (al-kuhuul)
11. Checkmate (shaah maat)
12. Sugar (sukkar)
13. Gauze (qazz)
14. Lilac (laylak)
15. Almanac (al-manaakh)
16. Macramé (miqrama)
17. Tambourine (tunbuur)
18. Magazine (makhaazin)
19. Admiral (al-'amiir)
20. Alfalfa (al-fasfasa)
21. Giraffe (zaraafa)
22. Sequins (sikkas)
23. Racket (raaha)