



Vocabulary

Grade 4 Unit 3: Contemporary Fiction: Mi Calle, Tu Calle



Word Origins & Word Histories

Introduction: Word Origins & Word Histories



Not all print and digital dictionaries provide information on the origin and history of the word.

We can use **print and digital dictionaries** to determine the meaning of words and phrases, as well as their **origin and history**.

Remember that you can use multiple sources to find the origin and history of the word if your glossary or dictionary doesn't include the information.

Let's look at the entry for the following
vocabulary word:

crumbling

crumbling (adj.): slowly falling apart, usually by breaking into small pieces

This entry provides only the definition of the word, not the origin or history of the word. To find the history we will need to look at an additional source.

crumbling (adj.): slowly falling apart, usually by breaking into small pieces; first used in 1547; alteration of Middle English *kremelen*

By using additional sources we can determine the year the word was first used and the history of where it came from.

Let's Try It Together!



Look at the entry for the following vocabulary word:

fancy

fancy (adj.): nice and probably expensive; first used as an adjective in 1646; from Latin *phantasia*.

Based on the entry for the word **fancy**, turn to a partner and discuss the history of the word.

Raise your hand to share the history of the word **fancy** and the year it was first used as an adjective.

Let's look at one more together. Look at the entry for the following vocabulary word:

complicated

complicated (adj.): difficult to explain; first used in 1656; from Latin *complicatus*

Based on the entry for the word **complicated**, turn to a partner and discuss the history of the word.

Raise your hand to share the history of the word **complicated** and the year it was first used.

Now try one by yourself!



Read the following entry from multiple sources:

barely (adj.): only just; first used in 1513; originates from Middle English

Identify the history of the word.

Write a sentence correctly using the word.

Answer



History — Middle English, 1513

Sentences may vary, but possible answers could include: We **barely** noticed when they came.