

Latin/German 1

English is a Germanic language, that is, it belongs to the same family of languages as German, Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish and shares a core vocabulary with these languages. However, a very large proportion of words in English derive from Latin, which is the mother language of French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Romanian.

As a result, English has many synonym pairs, with one from Germanic and one from Latin or French. Usually, if the Germanic synonym is informal or colloquial, the Latin synonym is neutral or more formal. If the Germanic synonym is neutral, the Latin synonym is either also neutral or more formal than the Germanic one.

This worksheet explores some of these synonyms and aims to familiarise the student with the contexts in which they are used. Each of the sentence pairs has a gap to be filled by either a Germanic or a Latin verb. First, match the synonyms in the table and then fill the gaps.

apprehend, commence, consume, criminal, crook, domesticate, eat, embrace, empty, end, folk, grab, hug, people, sight, start, tame, terminate, vacant, vision

G	L	G	L

1. Thirty _____ applied for the _____ position of Office Manager.
2. When she opened the door after the burglary an awful _____ met her eyes.
3. The announcement came that the day's proceedings would _____ an hour late at 10.00.. "Come here and give your grandmother a big _____ ," she cried. "I haven't seen you for so long."

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5. Last year the population of Great Britain _____ 10 million tonnes of potatoes.
6. They said that the game would _____ late.
7. When he arrived at the hall for the meeting it was _____.
"Where is everybody?" he thought.
8. Humans long ago realised that it was more advantageous to capture and keep animals in their care than to hunt them. Thus, the first animals were _____.
9. The _____ around here are very friendly. You'll like them a lot.
10. The president said that he had a _____ of life in a country where everyone would have work and no one would go hungry.
11. "The exam will _____ at 4.00," the teacher announced. "Please leave your papers on your tables and leave quietly."
12. After they had signed the peace agreement the two presidents _____ each other.
13. "Right, I'm ready, " said Detective Jones. "Let's go and _____ these crooks."
14. "Don't _____ your food so quickly," Mary's mother said.
15. "When I grow up I want to join the circus and _____ lions," said little Jimmy.
16. The police decided to _____ the operation when it became evident that they could not _____ the _____.