

WORD ORIGINS

We found the origins of four COMPLETELY RANDOM words and present them to you in NO PARTICULAR ORDER.

SPONGE

Meaning: A porous skeleton inhabited by a group of tiny aquatic marine invertebrates

Origin: From the Latin *spongia* and the Greek *sphoggos*, meaning “water growth.”

BOB

Meaning: Nickname of Robert

Origin: From an old Germanic word that means “shining with fame.”

SQUARE

Meaning: A rectangular shape with four equal sides

Origin: From the Old French *esquarre*, which itself came from the Latin *exquadra*, which means “out of four.”

PANTS

Meaning: Trousers

Origin: From a 16th-century Italian comic character known as Pantalone, who wore strange trousers. This gave us the word *pantaloon*, which first meant clown, and then the plural *pantaloons*, or trousers. The word was shortened to *pants* when it reached America.

