

## In Focus 1 - Speed Reading Unit 7

### Loanwords

English is a very special language. It has many words from other languages. This is because people from different countries have come to England for many years and have brought their languages with them. Also, people from England traveled to many countries, and when they came home, they brought back words from those countries.

These words from other countries are called loanwords. One example of a common loanword in English is “robot.” “Robot” comes from another language. It comes from a language called Czech. Czech is a language that is spoken in a country called the Czech Republic. The word “robot” was first used in a play. The play was called “R.U.R.” It was written by a man named Karel Čapek. He wrote the play in Czech. In the play, there were machines that looked like people. These machines were called “robots”. The word “robot” means “worker” in Czech.

The machines in the play were very special. They could do things that people could do. They could work and think. The machines in the play were also very strong. They could do things that people couldn’t do. They could lift heavy things and work for a long time. The machines in the play were also very smart. They could learn things quickly. They could also talk to each other.

The machines in the play were very helpful. They helped people do things. They helped people build things and fix things. The machines in the play were also very interesting. They had feelings. They could be happy or sad. They could also be angry or show fear. The machines in the play were also important. They showed people that machines could be very helpful. They also showed people that machines could cause trouble.

The word “robot” became very popular after the play was written. People started to use it in other languages. They started to use it in English too. The word “robot” is used today. It is used to talk about machines that look like people. It is also used to talk about machines that can do things that people can do. The word “robot” is a very special word. It comes from another language. It shows us how English has many words from other languages. Isn’t it surprising that a Czech word from a play about machines is now part of English? Words like this have made English richer.

English has thousands of words from other languages, and this number is growing every year. In the past, these loanwords were brought by people, but today it’s different. Today, words travel through technology. We live in a global world, and the internet is all over. The word “robot” took a long time to become part of the English language. Today the spread of loanwords is much faster. Can you think of any words from your language that have become part of English? I’m sure you can, and I want to say thank you for making English richer and more interesting.

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When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

**Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.**

1. What defines loanwords in English?
  - A) Words invented in English
  - B) Words with ancient origins
  - C) Words borrowed from other languages
  - D) Technical terms developed recently
  
2. How did loanwords traditionally enter English?
  - A) Through invasions and occupations
  - B) By academic exchanges
  - C) Through technological advancements
  - D) Through travel
  
3. From which language does "robot" originate?
  - A) German
  - B) Czech
  - C) English
  - D) French
  
4. The play "R.U.R." is classified under which genre?
  - A) Historical
  - B) Comedy
  - C) Drama
  - D) Science fiction
  
5. In Czech, what does "robot" translate to?
  - A) Worker
  - B) Machine
  - C) Warrior
  - D) Thinker
  
6. What unique feature did the machines in "R.U.R." have?
  - A) They were limited to physical labor.
  - B) They could not communicate.
  - C) They operated on basic commands.
  - D) They had human-like qualities.
  
7. Compared to the past, how do modern loanwords spread?
  - A) More quickly
  - B) The same pace as before
  - C) Only through literary works
  - D) Slower due to language barriers
  
8. What is the impact of loanwords on English?
  - A) They stagnate its development.
  - B) They make it less understandable.
  - C) They enrich and diversify the language.
  - D) They reduce its global usage.
  
9. Today, loanwords primarily enter English through:
  - A) Historical documents
  - B) Governmental decrees
  - C) Technology and the internet
  - D) Verbal storytelling traditions
  
10. Today's spread of loanwords is:
  - A) Restricted by linguistic purists
  - B) Much faster due to our global world
  - C) Hindered by traditionalists
  - D) Completely halted by technology