

THE ANATOMY OF TRIVIA

George, enjoying very much our every Friday morning “trivia séances.”

Well...I know that a **séance** is an attempt to communicate with spirits, but in this case we try to communicate with our own spirit, namely our brain to retrieve deep-seated data.

Trivia, our much beloved, at least by many, Friday pre-lunch show, is quite a popular happening here at Esplanade.

But, what in fact, is trivia and where is that not-so-English-sounding word coming from – this bothered the linguist in me since quite a while, so that it came a day when I said to myself enough is enough, get to the bottom of it! I did some thinking and then started to look for explanations.

Webster defines it, among other explanations, also as a “*quizzing game involving obscure facts*”, which indeed sounds quite right, obscure they indeed are...

But, then what kind of word is that, because it doesn't sound much of an English word.

In a word what is its etymology, its origin?

In my research, I am finding that, as with so many words in our language, it originates from Latin, namely from the Latin word **trivia**, the plural form of **trivium**, which meant for Romans a “place where three roads meet” (think of it: tri + via; via meaning road). The term came later to be used for any public place, and then for anything commonplace. Furthermore, because the beginners' courses at certain universities were called **trivium**, the word came to be used for anything basic, simple, and even “**trivial**”.

But then many trivia are not easy at all, which is then our problem on those aforementioned Fridays. But it's fun! Great fun! By the way, the game's name is always regarded as a singular noun.

So then **come over**, it's always interesting and so challenging. It's an excellent brain gymnastics, keeps you ever young, well if not really young, but youngish... at least mentally.

It's on Fridays at 11:30 in the Auditorium. Come over!