

Five Words of Freedom

by Margaret Whisnant

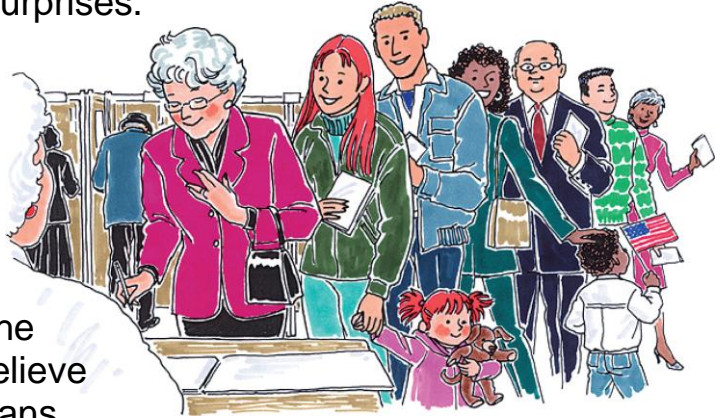
Freedom is an ancient idea. Many of the words we use to explain what freedom is and how it works have histories (etymologies) that go back to Latin, the language of ancient Rome (c. 750 BCE to 64 CE). Some are even older with roots in ancient Greece (800 BCE to 146 BCE).

The following 5 words of freedom are about our American government. As you read their stories, be ready for a few surprises.

1. vote

Vote is descended from the Latin *votum*, meaning “a wish,” “a promise,” “a solemn pledge,” “a dedication.”

Voting truly is the way we express our individual wishes. We walk up to the ballot box to choose the leaders we believe will serve according to our personal plans and dreams. Exercising the right to vote is also like a promise, a pledge to preserve our way of life for today and for generations to come.



Full text is 2 pages with a page of questions and answer keys.