

Do You Speak Plant?

Of course you do!



The English language is a verdant garden of words and phrases rooted in plants. There are many low-hanging examples of this in the lexicon. The large and ever-growing green earth movement and its related policies and industries all stem from the impact germinated by tiny chloroplasts. Health, beauty and nutrition products sprout from fertile minds seeking fruitful uses for organic resources. And could romance truly bloom without roses or flowers by any other name?

Cultivate Your Thoughts



1. Underline the words and phrases in the above passage that use plant-based metaphor or simile.
2. Replace the plant-based language in the passage with 'un-plant-y' terms and phrases. Which passage is more interesting to read and why? Which is more effective? Why?
3. Brainstorm 3-5 more words rooted in plants. Use them to write 1-2 sentences to describe a simple topic (e.g. a daily routine, a favorite activity).
4. Explain what each phrase shown below means. Try to use 'non-plant' phrasing as you explain.
5. Choose phrases from below to compose a narrative essay on a topic of your choice.
6. Use any of the plant-based words or phrases from this page or #3 to write an explanation of one of the 12 principles of plant biology www.aspb.org/12principles.
7. Repeat #6 but explain how a science, tech, engineering or math topic relates to plant biology.

Phrases Planted in English

stop and smell the roses - plant a seed - it's a jungle out there - late bloomer
nip it in the bud - out of the weeds - fresh as a daisy - green thumb - the grass
is always greener on the other side - reap what you sow - it's peachy keen - life is
(not) a bed of roses - beat around the bush - the apple of his/her eye

See more at <http://www.gardendigest.com/cliche.htm>



American Society
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