

**Why is there a 'b' in doubt? *From TED***

Ask questions to obtain the answers underlined in the following sentences taken from the text:

e.g.

David likes bacon. What does David like? (**Bacon**)

David likes bacon. Who likes bacon? (**David**)

- 1) People often think the word *doubt* 's spelling is a little crazy because of the letter "b".
- 2) But in spite of what most of us learn in school, sound is never the most important aspect of spelling an English word.
- 3) A word's meaning and history need to come first.
- 4) To doubt means to question, to waver, to hesitate.
- 5) And then it came into English in the 13th century.
- 6) About 100 years later, scribes who wrote English but also knew Latin, started to reinsert the "b" into the word's spelling,
- 7) There are only two base words in all of English that have the letters "d-o-u-b": ...
- 8) ...one is doubt, and the other is double.
- 9) We can build lots of other words on each of these bases, like doubtful and doubtless, or doublet, and redouble, and doubloon.
- 10) So the next time you are in doubt about why English spelling works the way it does, take a second look.

