

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

Fill in the missing prepositions:

But the story doesn't end there. If we look even deeper, we can see (1)\_\_\_\_\_ the shadow (2)\_\_\_\_\_ a doubt, just how revealing that "b" can be. There are only two base words (3)\_\_\_\_\_ all (4)\_\_\_\_\_ English that have the letters "d-o-u-b": one is doubt, and the other is double. We can build lots (5)\_\_\_\_\_ other words (6)\_\_\_\_\_ each (7)\_\_\_\_\_ these bases, like doubtful and doubtless, or doublet, and redouble, and doubloon.

It turns (8)\_\_\_\_\_ that if we look (9)\_\_\_\_\_ their history, we can see that they both derive (10)\_\_\_\_\_ the same Latin forms. The meaning (11)\_\_\_\_\_ double, two, is reflected (12)\_\_\_\_\_ a deep understanding (13)\_\_\_\_\_ doubt. See, when we doubt, when we hesitate, we second guess ourselves. When we have doubts (14)\_\_\_\_\_ something, when we have questions or confusion, we are (15)\_\_\_\_\_ two minds.

Historically, before English began (16)\_\_\_\_\_ borrow words (17)\_\_\_\_\_ French, it already had a word (18)\_\_\_\_\_ doubt. That Old English word was "tweogan," a word whose relationship (19)\_\_\_\_\_ "two" is clear (20)\_\_\_\_\_ its spelling as well.

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