

Money and Language
Robert A. Leonard
Discussion Questions

Leonard's is a short article that nicely introduces the money and language section of our course. There will be two parts to our next class. In the first part we will discuss Leonard's article. In the second part of class you will report on some dictionary work that you are to do between now and next class.

Discussion Questions for Leonard

1. What, according to Leonard, are the important similarities between money and language?

Which of Leonard's examples of the etymology of terms best illustrates these similarities?

2. What does Leonard mean when he says that "...language is a form, not a substance"?

What does Leonard mean when he says that the same statement applies to money?

Dictionary Assignment

Choose a term for money, wealth or interest and prepare a brief report on the etymology of that word. The word may be one that Leonard mentions, such as "simoleans", "boodle" or "long green", provided that the Leonard's article does not provide the etymology. For example, you should not choose "dollar" since Leonard provides the etymology of that word.

The reference room of the library has several resources that you will find useful in completing this part of the assignment. Included among these are the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) and the *Dictionary of American Slang*. This part of the assignment should be fun.