Eponyms

An eponym is a word derived from:

- a real person’s name
- a fictional person’s name
- the name of a place

For example:

The **Ferris wheel** is named for George Ferris, an engineer who built the first Ferris wheel for an 1893 fair in Chicago.

The word **zany** (a clown or buffoon) comes from Zanni, the name of a clown who performed in Italian comedies in the 16th century.

The word **marathon** comes from the city of Marathon, Greece, from where a legendary messenger ran 26 miles and 385 yards to Athens.