

## **A selection of folk (or popular) etymologies**

ang [painful] + nail > hangnail  
asparagus [from Greek] > sparrow grass  
berfroi [siege tower] > belfry  
Canariae [=dogs] Insulae > Canary Islands  
chaise [chair] + longue [long] > chaise longue  
cucaracha [from Spanish] > cockroach  
dormeuse [sleepy] > dormouse  
eare [ear] + wicga [insect] > earwig  
femelle [little or dear woman] > female  
Hamburger [meat dish from Hamburg] > ham>burger  
help + meet [suitable] > helpmate  
l'oeuf [egg] > love [in tennis]  
mistel [mistletoe] + tan [twig] > mistletoe  
mousseron > mushroom  
musquash > muskrat  
pick>a>pack > piggyback  
sam [half, from semi] + blind > sandblind  
shame + fast [fixed] > shamefaced  
sombre [above, from supra] + sault [leap] > somersault, summersalt  
spit and image > spitting image  
steor [steer] + board > starboard  
tadde [toad] pol [head] > tadpole  
wær [oath] loga [liar] > warlock  
wijssegger [soothsayer] > wiseacre  
wych [flexible] hazel > witch hazel