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# January Brings New Treasures: Copyrights Expire and Works Go Public Domain

## Description

As January rolls around in the US, it heralds a familiar event that has occurred annually since 2019: a new selection of previously copyrighted works has officially entered the public domain. This means that individuals now have the freedom to publish, modify, and adapt these works and their characters without the need to secure rights or pay royalty fees.

This year's offerings include an array of books, plays, films, artworks, and musical compositions from 1929, alongside sound recordings from 1924. According to the provisions of the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act of 1998, most works released from 1923 onward are shielded for 95 years, effectively delaying their entry into the public domain by two decades.

As is tradition, the Duke University Center for the Study of the Public Domain [provides a comprehensive overview](#) of the most notable works that have become public this year.

Among the significant literature is Ernest Hemingway's *Farewell to Arms*, along with the first English translation of Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Agatha Christie's *The Seven Dials Mystery*, Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, and William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*.

The cinematic offerings showcase pioneering films that introduced sound, including the first all-color feature-length film with synchronized audio (Warner Bros.' [On With the Show!](#)) and notable sound films by directors like Cecil B. DeMille and Alfred Hitchcock. Additionally, we find Buster Keaton's last silent film, *Spite Marriage*, alongside memorable musical compositions like *Singin' in the Rain* and *Tiptoe Through the Tulips*.

On the Disney front, noteworthy additions include the Silly Symphony short *The Skeleton Dance* and several early Mickey Mouse shorts, which feature significant character developments, such as Mickey's introduction of white gloves and his first spoken lines. Interestingly, only the 1920s versions of these characters have entered the public domain, making each new edition crucial for creators wishing to use these beloved figures without infringing on Disney's copyrights.



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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Copyright** /'kɒpɪraɪt/ (noun): The exclusive legal right to reproduce publish and sell the specified work.
2. **Provisions** /prə'vɪʒənz/ (noun): The act of providing or supplying something for use.
3. **Comprehensive** /,kɒmpri'hensɪv/ (adjective): Including all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.
4. **Adapt** /ə'dæpt/ (verb): To make something suitable for a new use or purpose.
5. **Notable** /'nəʊtəbl/ (adjective): Worthy of attention or notice; remarkable.
6. **Infringing** /ɪn'frɪndʒɪŋ/ (verb): Acting to limit or undermine something particularly a right or law.

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. Which word means well-known and respected for past achievements?  
Option: complicated  
Option: resilience  
Option: illustrious  
Option: insomnia
2. Which word means damaged or destroyed by chemical action?  
Option: hygiene  
Option: corroded  
Option: pivotal  
Option: gathered
3. Which word means an arrival or entry of large numbers of people or things?  
Option: notable  
Option: copyright  
Option: influx  
Option: comprehensive
4. Which word means exceeding what is reasonable or appropriate; excessive?  
Option: engaged  
Option: complicated  
Option: extravagant  
Option: boundaries
5. Which word means limitations set on actions or thoughts?



- Option: insomnia
- Option: boundaries
- Option: infringing
- Option: gathered

6. Which word means the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties?

- Option: humbled
- Option: pressure
- Option: resilience
- Option: signaling

7. Which word means made a choice or decision?

- Option: delighted
- Option: spotted
- Option: opted
- Option: rumors

8. Which word means deserving attention because of excellence or worth?

- Option: opted
- Option: notable
- Option: gathering
- Option: intriguing

9. Which word means collected; assembled?

- Option: pressure
- Option: complex
- Option: gathered
- Option: insomnia

10. Which word means the continuous physical force exerted on or against an object by something in contact with it?

- Option: infringing
- Option: opted
- Option: pressure
- Option: opulent

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. A white dove often \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

12. The textbook provides a \_\_\_\_\_ overview of the subject.



13. She suffered from \_\_\_\_\_ and could not sleep for days.
14. The author holds the \_\_\_\_\_ to his literary works.
15. The treaty included various \_\_\_\_\_ for humanitarian aid.
16. The couple got \_\_\_\_\_ after a year of dating.
17. Good \_\_\_\_\_ practices are essential for public health.
18. There were circulating \_\_\_\_\_ about his sudden resignation.
19. All their hard work \_\_\_\_\_ in a spectacular performance.
20. The palace was decorated in an \_\_\_\_\_ style with luxurious furnishings.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The traffic light was for the cars to stop.
22. The instructions for assembling the furniture were quite .
23. The decision she made was in determining the company's future.
24. The movie's ending was so that it brought tears to many viewers.
25. The children were with their new toys.
26. She a rare bird in the park.
27. His speech was a reminder of the importance of humility.
28. Copying the software without permission is on the company's rights.
29. The mystery novel had a plot full of twists and turns that kept readers engaged.
30. The various departments in the company are and rely on each other for smooth operations.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. illustrious 2. corroded 3. influx 4. extravagant 5. boundaries 6. resilience 7. opted 8. notable



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9. gathered 10. pressure

**Gap-Fill:** 11. symbolizes 12. comprehensive 13. insomnia 14. copyright 15. provisions 16. engaged 17. hygiene 18. rumors 19. culminates 20. opulent

**Matching sentence:** 1. signaling 2. complicated 3. pivotal 4. poignant 5. delighted 6. spotted 7. humbled 8. infringing 9. intriguing 10. interconnected

## CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL4

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