

Etymologies of the American Vernacular *rag*

a) according to most encyclopedias etc. (e.g. *Grove*):

Engl. *ragged time* ^[??] > *rag(-)time* (style of music) ^[??] > *rag* (musical trademark)

b) based on historical principles (*Oxford English Dictionary*):

??? > US slang *rag* “(a special kind of) dance” > US coll. *rag* (musical trademark)
> *rag* + *time* = *rag(-)time* (special rhythm) > *ragtime* (style of music)

c) postulated by Karl Gert zur Heide (since February 2001⁺):

Arab. رقص = *raqs* “dance” > US slang *rag(s)* “(a special kind of) dance” > US coll. *rag* (musical trademark)
> *rag* + *time* = *rag(-)time* (special rhythm) > *ragtime* (style of music)

[??] means that there is no historical evidence for this sequence. Contemporary sources strongly suggest a reversed chronology – see b).

⁺ First published in print by zur Heide in “Chicago, 1893 (Part 2)”, *Doctor Jazz Magazine* (NL), No. 188 (March 2005), p. 13.