

No one knows for sure why the phrase, “Open Sesame” is used as the magic words in the story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.

Ali Baba hears the thieves say the “magical” words and the covering of the cave full of treasure opens up....like it needed a signal or a password said before it could be unlocked.

SESAME is an ancient spice, one of the first recorded plants used for its seeds.

The word sounds similar in many languages.

sesame , pronounced, <i>seh-suh-mee</i>	English
simsim , pronounced, <i>shim-shim</i>	Arabic
sousámi , pronounced, <i>su-sah-mee</i>	Greek
sumsum , pronounced, <i>Soom-soom</i>	Hebrew

The word, SESAME also sounds a lot like other words in different languages.
Many of those words have similar meanings.

sisma, pronounced *sees-mah* Hebrew word for password, signal, motto
In all forms related to sisma, the reference is to an agreed upon phrase that starts an action.

syssemon, pronounced *see-sah-mon* Greek word for signal
Ancient Greek soldiers carried sesame seeds as energy boosting snacks.

sound of the seed, not the word:

Some people think that the phrase comes from the sound ripening sesame seeds make when they burst from their pods, a popping noise that sounds like a lock spring opening.