

The History of English

trace her family tree back to the 16th century	
a tribe of Aborigines	
speak a dialect of English	
eventually find work	
find a vital piece of evidence	
settle in Japan	
Education levels are strongly related to income.	
undergo massive changes	
conquer much of the world	
many members of the nobility	
replace the permanent staff with part-timers	
diets combined with exercise	
Communism never took root in Japan.	
evolve toward a democratic nation	
assess the impact on climate change	
a book on modern English usage	
majestic mountain scenery	
The elephant population is dwindling.	
raise me like their fresh and blood	
My luggage disappeared into thin air.	
further improve your English	
technological advances	
appear deeply split on the issue	
absorb information	
the hardback edition of the dictionary	
foods that contain a lot of fat	

Linguists **trace** the roots of English back to an ancient language spoken by **tribes** in Europe and Asia. This language today is known simply as Indo-European. As the speakers of this language moved to different areas, various **dialects** of the language began to develop. These dialects **eventually** developed into several groups: the Romance languages, including Greek, Latin, and French, and the Germanic languages, including German, Swedish, Dutch, and English. Today, about 150 languages, with about three billion speakers, can trace their roots to Indo-European. A few words in each of these languages can be seen as **evidence** that they all came from the same root language. The English word father, for instance, came from the same Indo-European root word as the Latin word pater, the German word vater, and the Sanskrit word pitr.

Around 400 or 500 A.D., people from northern Europe began to **settle** in the country known today as England. These settlers spoke languages that were closely **related** to each other, so when they came to England they easily mixed their languages to create Old English. There were actually people already living in England at that time, the Celts, but the Europeans pushed the Celtic population north and west, into Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Therefore, the Celtic language had very little influence on Old English. Some Norse words, such as get, wrong, and leg, came into the English language when Vikings began to attack England from Scandinavia in the ninth century, but Old English did not change much at that time.

English **underwent** major changes after France **conquered** England in 1066. When the French leader, William the Conqueror, took control of England, his dialect of Old French became the language of the kings and **nobility** in England. Evidence of this change in the language can still be found in English today. For example, lower-class cooks in an English castle prepared meat from cows, pigs, and sheep. But when this meat was served to the king, it was called beef, pork, and mutton. Both sets of words continue to be used to this day. In other cases, French words **replaced** Old English words completely, as in the case of uncle replacing eam and firen giving way to crime. In addition, new words were created in English at this time by **combining** an Old English word with a French word, such as the French gentle combining with the Old Englishman to create gentleman. As all of the above changes **took root** in the language, Old English **evolved** into what is now known as Middle English.

The next step in the evolution of the English language, the step from Middle to Modern English, occurred in the 1500s during the Renaissance. At this time, educated people were interested in learning and using Greek and Latin, so many words with Greek and Latin roots appeared in English at this time. This was also the period when Shakespeare made his personal **impact** on the English language. Through his writing, Shakespeare brought almost 2,000 words into common **usage**, including such words as critical, **majestic**, and **dwindle**. He also coined such common phrases as "**flesh and blood**" and "vanish **into thin air**," which are still used to this day.

But English did not stop evolving with Shakespeare. The Industrial Revolution and the settling of English speakers in the United States both brought about **further** changes in the language. With technological **advances**, new words were created from Greek and

Latin roots (oxygen and vaccine) as well as from combining existing English words (horsepower and airplane). And as English speakers in North America separated themselves from English speakers in Britain, the language further **split** into different dialects in each country. Even today, English continues to **absorb** new words into its vocabulary. Take for example the following list of common words borrowed from other languages that most English speakers probably don't even recognize as foreign at all: shampoo (Hindi), sauna (Finnish), tycoon (Japanese), canyon (Spanish), coffee (Arabic), and ketchup or catsup (Chinese). English today has a larger vocabulary than any other language—the latest **edition** of the Oxford English Dictionary **contains** over 230,000 unique words.

Reading Comprehension

1. According to the passage, the fact that the German and Latin words for father are similar means ...

- a. Latin evolved from German.
- b. German evolved from Latin.
- c. both languages evolved from an earlier language.
- d. nothing. It's just by chance.

2. Which of these is NOT mentioned in the passage as a way of creating new English words?

- a. word combining
- b. importing from other languages
- c. coining new words from foreign roots
- d. creation of words by dictionary authors

3. According to the passage, which of these languages has had the least influence on English?

- a. Celtic
- b. Norse
- c. French
- d. Latin

4. Which of these languages was not brought to England by an invading force?

- a. Old English
- b. French
- c. Greek
- d. Norse

5. Where do most of the new words in English today come from?

- a. other dialects
- b. North America
- c. the Oxford English Dictionary
- d. The passage doesn't say.

英作文

1 マイクはスコットランドの方言を話すのですが、特に酔っ払ってナチュラルスピードで話すと、非常に聞き取りにくいんです。

2 日本では、教育水準は所得と強く関係しています。低所得家庭の子どもは、高所得家庭の子どもほど大学に進学せず、低所得の仕事に就くことになる。

3 ソ連の崩壊は、残念ながら、プーチンが作り上げた独裁国家に見られるように、より民主的な国家への進化には繋がらなかったのである。

4 英語力が飛躍的に向上したのは、私を肉親のように育ててくれたホストファミリーのおかげです。もし、他のホストファミリーのもとで過ごしていたら、結果は大きく変わっていたでしょう。

5 もう若くはないのですから、健康を維持するためには、大好きなピザやハンバーガーなど、脂肪分を多く含む食べ物は控えた方がよいでしょう。

6 目先の利益のために正社員をパートタイマーに置き換えるのは、企業の成長につながらない近視眼的な政策だと思うのです。

7 新年度にどの教科書を採用するか、英語担当者の意見は大きく分かれているようだ。その理由は、指導方法の違いや優先順位の違いによるものだ。

8 新年度にどの教科書を採用するか、英語担当者の意見は大きく分かれているようだ。その理由は、指導方法の違いや優先順位の違いによるものだ。