

You are going to listen to a lecture about language change



Listening for Main Ideas

Read questions 1 and 2. Listen to the lecture. Then choose the correct answer for each question.

1. Dr. Herman Nash is _____.
 - a. an English teacher
 - b. an expert on literature
 - c. a linguist
2. According to Dr. Nash, the languages we speak _____.
 - a. are being corrupted
 - b. do not remain the same for very long
 - c. are all very similar



2. Listening for More Detail

Read questions 3–10. Listen to the interview again and choose the correct answer for each question.

3. Changes in language are _____.
 - a. always difficult to observe
 - b. always easy to observe
 - c. often gradual
4. *Gradual* probably means _____.
 - a. slow
 - b. unimportant
 - c. negative

5. Which word was added to English because of the Internet?

- a. cell phone
- b. blog
- c. fax

6. According to Dr. Nash, words that start out as slang sometimes ____.

- a. become accepted as standard language
- b. corrupt a language
- c. become extinct

7. Dr. Nash believes that language change ____.

- a. should be stopped
- b. is usually predictable
- c. is natural

8. *To be corrupted* probably means ____.

- a. to become worse
- b. to improve
- c. to change quickly

9. In 1994, the French government asked its citizens to ____.

- a. not use slang
- b. not study English
- c. not use words borrowed from English

10. Samuel Johnson is known for ____.

- a. creating many new words
- b. writing a dictionary of English
- c. beginning an English school