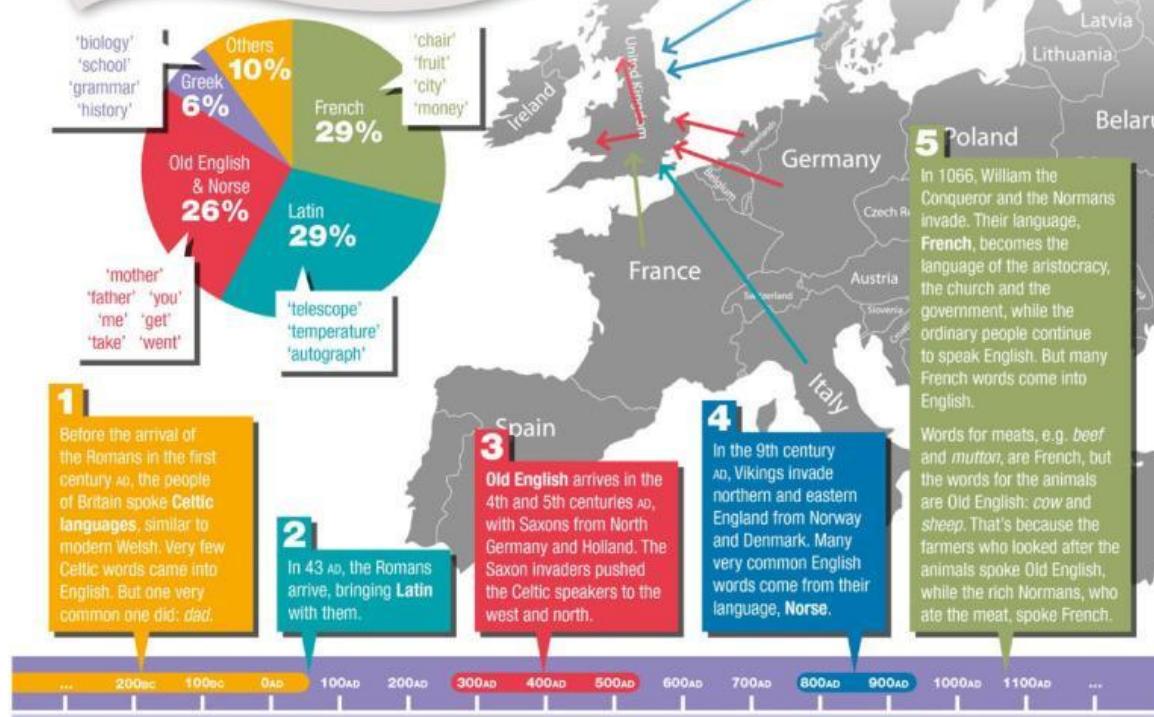


The English language

Origins of English words



2 Read the information about the history of English. Are the sentences true or false? Write T or F.

- 1 Britain's first inhabitants spoke Latin.
- 2 Old English arrived from Norway and Denmark.
- 3 The Vikings invaded parts of Britain between about 800 and 1000 AD.
- 4 After 1066, most powerful and important people in Britain spoke French.
- 5 Over half of all English words come from French and Latin.

4 **3.23** Listen to an interview about English as a global language. Which one of these topics do they not mention?

- 1 The future of English
- 2 The number of English speakers
- 3 How English became a global language
- 4 The influence of technology
- 5 Foreign words in English
- 6 The effect of English on other languages

5 **3.23** Listen again. What is the significance of these numbers and dates?

- 1 the 18th and 19th centuries
- 2 1945
- 3 55%
- 4 335 million
- 5 1.5 billion
- 6 half a million
- 7 one hundred years from now

3 Read the information again and answer the questions.

- 1 Where did the Saxons come from?
- 2 What language did the Romans bring?
- 3 Where did the Celtic speakers go after the Saxons arrived?
- 4 What language did the Vikings speak?
- 5 After 1066, which language did most ordinary people speak?

- 6 Which very common English word came from Celtic?
- 7 What percentage of English words come from Old English and Norse?