

Read the text below. For questions 1-5 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

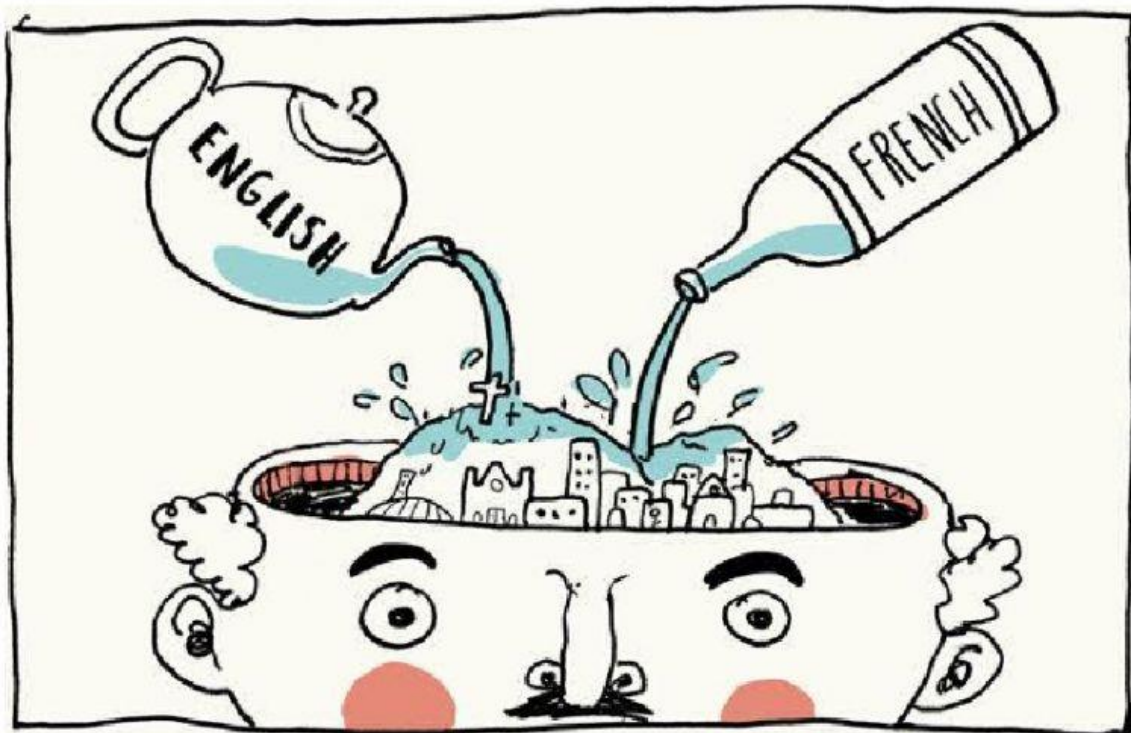
How languages change

Languages are not static. They change and evolve just as cultures do. But how does this happen?



In the past, it happened when people who spoke different languages moved to other areas, or traded goods, or when they fought against each other in wars. English has borrowed thousands of words and expressions from many

other languages this way.



There are more than 120 languages that have given words to English vocabulary and, of all languages, English is the biggest borrower of words. Almost 40% of English words come from French. Look through any major English dictionary and you'll see many influences, from alligator (Spanish) to zoo (Greek). In fact, about 80% of present-day English vocabulary comes from languages other than the original Germanic English.



But not all the changes in English are borrowed. Sometimes, words and expressions are made up to give a name to something new. This happens a lot in science and technology. For example, the word *telephone* was created to name the new device. Phrases such as *travel card* and *solar form* are made up of existing English words, and were created to give names to these new things. Or, new words can be made with combinations of existing words such as *internet* (*international* + *network*).

In the last few decades, it is the media that has influenced the language most. In the past, expressions were shared through face-to-face contact and usually it took a generation before a word became widely used. Today, the use of English in films, television, and, especially the Internet, allows words to travel faster than ever before.

A new word or phrase that is invented today can be around the globe by tomorrow via Twitter. If people like it, it will spread on all social media and will become part of daily language in no time at all.

1 Why did languages change in the past?

- A People took part in wars.
- B People borrowed things from each other.
- C People lived in the same homelands.
- D People wanted to speak differently.

2 How many English words come from other languages?

- A 40%

B 120 words

C 80%

D 20%

3 Which way of creating new words is NOT mentioned in the text?

A making up absolutely new words

B combining words that were in the language before

C making phrases with the existing words

D shortening long phrases into one word

4 What makes it possible for new words to become widely known fast?

A People talk a lot.

B People use social media.

C People like new words.

D People do not watch TV.

5 How fast can a new word become known to many people nowadays?

A in a day

B in a week

C in a decade

D in a generation