

# The origins of English

## 1. Answer the questions

- How much has your language changed over the past 1,000 years? Would you be able to understand a text written 1,000 years ago?
- Which other languages are most closely related to your own language? Why?
- Does your language contain words derived from Latin or Greek? Give examples.

## 2. Study the vocabulary, explain the meaning

evolved through generations      undergo major changes      trace the language  
Norman invasion      conquered      descendants      ancestors

## 3. Watch the video, choose the correct answer

1. English shares many words with \_\_\_\_\_ because of borrowing.
  - a) Punjabi
  - b) Khmer
  - c) French
  - d) Navajo

2. English is a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ language group

- a) Germanic
- b) Finno-Ugric
- c) Viking
- d) Latin

3. We can tell that languages are related to one another because \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Scribes recorded when the languages split
- b) The language was written down
- c) They have some similar grammar
- d) They show regular consistent changes

4. Words that start with a "pf" sound in German start with \_\_\_\_\_ in English.

- a) "Pf"
- b) "P"
- c) "B"
- d) "F"

5. Proto-Indo-European was most likely spoken in \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) India
- b) Australia
- c) America and Mexico
- d) Russia and Ukraine

6. We talked about several similarities between English and German.  
Can you find others by looking at a dictionary of German and comparing the words to their English translations?

**4. Watch the video again and decide if the statements are True or False**

1. The French-speaking Normans conquered England and became its ruling class.
2. Old English belongs to the Germanic language family, first brought to the British Isles in the 5th and 6th centuries by the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes.
3. A language called Proto-Indo-European, spoken about 6000 years ago on the Pontic steppe in modern day Latvia and Armenia.
4. Some of English's more distant relatives include Turkish, Arabic, and the Asian languages.