

Brain dead or egg head?

Q1. The text below is an old form of which language? Can you guess which of the three languages given is the correct one?

Hwæt! We Gardena in geardagum,
 þeodcyninga, þrym gefrunon,
 hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.
 Oft Scyld Scefing sceaþena þreatum,
 monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,
 egsode eorlas.

Hint: English translation

LO, praise of the prowess of people-kings
 of spear-armed Danes, in days long sped,
 we have heard, and what honor the athelings won!
 Oft Scyld the Scefing from squadroned foes,
 from many a tribe, the mead-bench tore,
 awing the earls.

- a. Norse (language of the Vikings)
- b. English
- c. French

Q2. Can you guess what the words below mean in English? Write your guesses in the English column. Try saying the words out loud and think about what words in English they might sound or look like.

English	Afrikaans	Danish	Dutch	Icelandic	Scots	Swedish
	Appel	Æble	Appel	Epli	Aiple	Äpple
	Boek	Bog	Boek	Bók	Beuk	Bok
	Huis	Hus	Huis	Hús	Hoose	Hus
	Nag	Nat	Nacht	Nótt	Nicht	Natt
	Sneeu	Sne	Sneeuw	Snjór	Snaw	Snö
	Twee	To	Twee	Tveir	Twa	Två

Hint: Here are the words in German

German
Apfel
Buch
Haus
Nacht
Schnee
Zwei/Zwo

Q3. Can you guess from which language the following English words have come from? Tick the boxes below to match each word with a language.

	French	Norwegian	German	Greek	Hindi	Spanish	Italian	Japanese
Queue								
Hamburger								
Guitar								
Karaoke								
Umbrella								
Blitz								
Skeleton								
Shampoo								
Mathematics								
Ski								

Q4. Can you match the original meaning to the modern word? Think about what the word means today but also think about the meaning of each word. Using the list of words below fill in your answers into the table.

massage | something learnt | dried up | a fresh set of horses | great lord | little shadow | split wood

Modern words	Guess
Relay	
Ski	
Mathematics	
Umbrella	
Shampoo	
Tycoon	
Skeleton	

Q5. Look at the text below. Do you know which of the three languages given is the correct one?

Principais Cidades

Lisboa é a capital, a maior cidade do país e detém o principal porto marítimo. Esta cidade foi a Capital Europeia da Cultura em 1994 e hospedou a Exposição Internacional de 1998, a EXPO 98". Outras cidades importantes são as do Porto, a segunda maior cidade e porto marítimo, Coimbra (cerca de 105 000), importante centro industrial e universitário.

- a. Italian
- b. Portuguese
- c. Spanish

Q6. Find the word cidade in the text in question 5. See if you can guess what it means. As you read the text use words that sound or look like English to help you. Type your guess in the box below.

Principais Cidades

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Hint

Lisbon is the capital, the largest _____ in the country and also the principal maritime port. This _____ was the European Capital of Culture in 1994 and hosted the International Exhibition of 1998 (Expo 98). Other important _____ are Porto the second largest _____ and maritime port, and Coimbra, an important industrial and university centre.

Your answer:

cidade means:

Q7. Here are some words in languages you might find difficult to read. Can you match them with the languages given in the list below?

Turkish | Chinese | Russian | Arabic | Hindi | Greek

Word	Language
a. телевизор	
b. Hayır, çocuğum yok	
c. 中文	
d. Ελληνικά	
e. كل اح فيك ؟	
f. हिन्दी	

Q8. Read the passage below. Looking at the list of words decide where each word should be placed in the text. Fill in the boxes below with your answers.

Greek | London | community | Irish | monolingual | Welsh | Bengali | English

The majority of the population of the United Kingdom is (1), that is they speak only one language, in this case (2). However, there are other languages which are native to the UK which are still spoken in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These are Scottish Gaelic, (3), Welsh, Ulster Scots. The most widely spoken of these languages is (4) followed by Irish and Scottish Gaelic. However, there are many more languages spoken in the UK other than those that are the national or official languages of the UK. These are known as (5) languages and are spoken by groups of people who have come to live in the UK as immigrants, most of them in relatively recent times. Of these, speakers of languages from the Indian sub-continent such as (6), Punjabi are the most numerous. Other languages that are widely spoken in the UK are (7), Turkish and Polish. In (8) some 300 different languages are spoken.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

Q9. Look at the sentences below. Which of the three languages listed do you think this is? Hint: it has very few speakers.

Dydh da, fatal genes? - Good day, how are you?
 Yn point da, meur ras - I am well, thank you

- a. Welsh
- b. Cornish
- c. Scottish Gaelic

Q10. Look at the phrases below (in the same language as in question 9). Can you work out the word for 'good'? Type your answer in the box below.

Good day - Dydh da
 Good morning - Myttin da
 Good afternoon - Dohajdh da
 Good evening - Gorthugher da

Your answer:

Good =	
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Q11. Find the missing numbers (again in the language from Q9) from 1 to 10 by filling in the missing words in the table below. Hint: think about words for numbers in other languages that you do you know (including English). Are there any similarities that can help you?

Missing words: seyth | tri | deg | onan | dew | eth

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			peswar	pymp	hwegh			naw	

Answers

Q1. English

It is actually a form of English 'Old English' (or 'Anglo-Saxon', as it is sometimes called). It was spoken during the period c600-1100 AD

The text is by Beowulf c.1000 AD

Q2.

English	Afrikaans	Danish	Dutch	Icelandic	Scots	Swedish
Apple	Appel	Æble	Appel	Epli	Aiple	Äpple
Book	Boek	Bog	Boek	Bók	Beuk	Bok
House	Huis	Hus	Huis	Hús	Hoose	Hus
Night	Nag	Nat	Nacht	Nótt	Nicht	Natt
Snow	Sneeu	Sne	Sneeuw	Snjór	Snaw	Snö
Two	Twee	To	Twee	Tveir	Twa	Två

Q3.

	French	Norwegian	German	Greek	Hindi	Spanish	Italian	Japanese
Queue	x							
Hamburger			x					
Guitar						x		
Karaoke								x
Umbrella							x	
Blitz			x					
Skeleton				x				
Shampoo					x			
Mathematics				x				
Ski		x						

Q4.

Modern word	Answer
Relay	a fresh set of horses
Ski	split wood
Mathematics	something learnt
Umbrella	little shadow
Shampoo	massage
Tycoon	great lord
Skeleton	dried up

Q5. Portuguese

Q6. City or Town

Q7.

Languages	Answer
телевизор	Russian
Ελληνικά	Greek
Hayır, çocuşum yok	Turkish
كل اح فيك ؟	Arabic
हिन्दी	Hindi
中文	Chinese

Q8.

1	monolingual
2	English
3	Irish
4	Welsh
5	community
6	Bengali
7	Greek
8	London

Q9. Cornish

The language almost died out when the last native speakers died at the end of the 19th century, but the language has survived with some 300-400 speakers in Cornwall. It is related to Gaelic family of languages which includes languages such as Welsh and Breton (spoken in Brittany, France).

Q10. da

Q11.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
onan	dew	tri	peswar	pypm	hwegh	seyth	eth	naw	deg