

LANGUAGE

There are two official languages in Great Britain: English and Welsh. The word Welsh comes from the word *wealh*, which means 'foreigner', and the Welsh language is very different from English. However, they do have something in common: they are both Indo-European languages. Over half of the world's population speaks one of around 300 Indo-European languages. According to experts, these languages (which include 'dead' languages like Latin and Sanskrit) all come from the same root language. This language no longer exists but its influence is still strong today.

Complete the table with words from your language. Do you think your language is an Indo-European language?

Sanskrit	Latin	English	Gaelic	Your language
matr	mater	mother	máthair	
pitr	pater	father	athair	
dwo-	duo	two	do	

STANDARD ENGLISH?

Many people think there is a perfect style of English we should all try to speak. However, does 'Oxford English', or 'BBC English' as it is also known, really exist?



1 Listen to Nick Smith, an English teacher from Hull. Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| T | F | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Everyone in Britain speaks 'standard English'. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no set rules for 'standard English'. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are no set rules for French. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | English is widely spoken by non-native speakers. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Some people think that RP is 'standard English'. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The BBC expects its reporters to speak RP. |

DID YOU KNOW?

Every 15 days a language disappears somewhere in the world. If this continues 3,000 of the world's 6,700 languages will have disappeared in 15 years' time. Most of the world's languages are oral-based and they have no written form. When people stop speaking them they will die out forever. Experts say there are at least 50 people in the world who have no-one to talk to because they are the last native speakers of their language.



to www.realworld.cc for more about the world's languages.

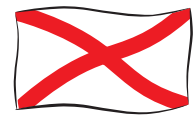


FLY THE FLAG

The British flag is called the Union Jack. It is made up of three crosses. They are the crosses of the patron saints of England, Scotland and Ireland. The crosses were made into one flag to represent the past union of the three countries.



2 Listen to the recording and write the countries under the flags.



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Why is it called a Union Jack? Read these two explanations then decide which one is true.

- The flag is named after Jack Knowles, a famous flag designer who lived in Britain in the late 1600s. Jack designed both the English flag and the Scottish flag.
- The flag is called this because it represents the union of the three countries and it is always flown on the jack-staff (main pole) on navy ships.



LET'S TALK

When do you fly a white flag? Write an explanation then invent another one. Read them aloud to a partner. Can they guess the correct explanation?

YOUR WORLD

With a partner find out more about your country's flag. When was it designed? What does it represent?



to www.realworld.cc for more fun and information on flags.



Australia for the Aboriginal flag (page 101).