

PREPARATORY ENGLISH PAPER 1 2013 MEMO Academic PDF

Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 Memo

Introduction

The Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 Memo is an essential resource for students preparing for the preparatory English examinations. It provides detailed insights into the structure of the exam, the marking scheme, and tips for effective preparation. Understanding the memo is crucial for students aiming to excel in their assessments, as it highlights the key areas to focus on and offers guidance on how to approach different types of questions. This article will delve into the main components of the 2013 memo, explore the exam format, discuss common pitfalls, and offer strategies for success.

Overview of the 2013 Preparatory English Paper 1

Exam Structure and Components

The 2013 preparatory English Paper 1 typically comprised several sections designed to assess different language skills. These sections include:

- Reading Comprehension
- Language Use and Grammar
- Vocabulary and Word Use
- Writing Skills (Optional in some cases)

The emphasis is generally on testing understanding, language accuracy, vocabulary range, and writing ability.

Marking Scheme and Points Allocation

The memo provides a breakdown of how marks are allocated across the sections, guiding students on where to focus their efforts. The typical distribution includes:

- Reading comprehension: 20-25 marks
- Language use and grammar: 15-20 marks

- Vocabulary questions: 10-15 marks
- Writing tasks (if applicable): 20-30 marks

The total score usually sums up to 80-100 marks, depending on the specific year's exam format.

Key Features of the 2013 Memo

Detailed Marking Guidelines

The memo details how examiners award marks, emphasizing the importance of:

- Accurate interpretation of texts
- Correct application of grammar rules
- Appropriate vocabulary usage
- Clear and coherent writing

It also provides examples of common errors to avoid and highlights the qualities that examiners look for in high-scoring answers.

Sample Answers and Model Responses

A significant part of the memo includes sample answers for the comprehension and writing sections. These serve as benchmarks for students, illustrating:

- How to structure responses
- What content to include or omit
- The correct language and tone to adopt

Studying these helps students understand expectations and develop their skills accordingly.

Analyzing the 2013 Paper: Insights from the Memo

Reading Comprehension Strategies

The memo emphasizes the importance of:

- Reading questions carefully before reading the passage
- Highlighting key points in the passage

- Making inferences where appropriate
- Managing time effectively to answer all questions

It also suggests techniques such as skimming and scanning to improve efficiency.

Grammar and Language Use

Key points include:

- Focusing on sentence structure and punctuation
- Using correct tense forms
- Avoiding common grammatical mistakes such as subject-verb agreement
- Ensuring clarity and conciseness in responses

The memo highlights frequent errors observed in candidates' scripts and offers corrective advice.

Vocabulary Development

The memo underscores the importance of:

- Building a wide vocabulary bank
- Understanding word meanings in context
- Using synonyms to avoid repetition
- Approaching vocabulary questions systematically

It recommends reading extensively and practicing vocabulary exercises regularly.

Common Challenges Highlighted in the 2013 Memo

Misinterpretation of Texts

Many students struggle with understanding the main idea or specific details of reading passages. The memo advises:

- Reading questions first to know what to look for
- Paying attention to keywords and phrases
- Re-reading passages if necessary to clarify understanding

Grammar and Syntax Errors

Frequent mistakes include incorrect tense usage and sentence fragments. The memo recommends:

- Reviewing basic grammar rules regularly
- Practicing sentence correction exercises
- Proofreading answers before submission

Limited Vocabulary

A narrow vocabulary can hinder expression and comprehension. The memo suggests:

- Engaging with diverse reading materials
- Learning new words daily
- Using vocabulary in context to reinforce understanding

Strategies for Effective Preparation Based on the Memo

Practice Past Papers

The memo encourages students to:

- Complete previous years' papers under exam conditions
- Use the memo to mark and analyze their answers
- Identify recurring mistakes and work on them

Focus on Weak Areas

By reviewing the memo, students can pinpoint areas needing improvement, such as:

- Specific grammatical structures
- Question types that pose challenges
- Vocabulary gaps

Enhance Reading Skills

Implement strategies like:

- Summarizing passages in their own words
- Asking questions about the text
- Discussing readings with peers for better comprehension

Improve Writing Skills

To excel in written tasks, students should:

- Plan their essays or responses before writing
- Practice writing under timed conditions
- Seek feedback from teachers or peers

Using the 2013 Memo as a Study Guide

Key Takeaways from the Memo

- Understand the exam format thoroughly
- Focus on clarity, coherence, and correctness
- Practice critical reading and writing skills
- Be aware of common errors and how to avoid them

Developing a Study Plan

Students should create a timetable that includes:

- Regular practice sessions for each section
- Review of the memo's guidelines and sample answers
- Vocabulary building exercises
- Mock exams to simulate real test conditions

Additional Resources

Alongside the memo, students can benefit from:

- English grammar books
- Vocabulary lists and flashcards
- Online practice tests and quizzes

- Reading diverse literary and informational texts

Conclusion

The Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 Memo serves as a comprehensive guide for students aiming to improve their performance in the exam. It offers valuable insights into the exam's structure, marking criteria, and expectations. By studying the memo carefully, practicing past papers, and focusing on identified weak areas, students can develop the skills necessary for success. Remember, consistent practice, strategic planning, and a thorough understanding of the memo's guidance are key to achieving excellent results in preparatory English examinations.

Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 Memo: An In-Depth Review and Expert Analysis

Introduction

When it comes to preparing students for the rigors of English language assessments, access to comprehensive memos and detailed marking guidelines is invaluable. The Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 Memo stands out as a critical resource for educators, students, and examiners alike. This memo not only offers insight into the marking scheme but also reflects the examiners' expectations, grading standards, and interpretative nuances for the 2013 examination. In this article, we will delve into an in-depth analysis of this memo, exploring its structure, key components, and how it serves as a vital tool for effective preparation and assessment.

Understanding the Purpose of the Memo

What Is a Memo in the Context of Exam Papers?

In the realm of standardized assessments, a memo (short for memorandum) functions as a comprehensive guide that:

- Outlines the Marking Scheme: Detailing how marks are allocated across different sections and questions.
- Provides Exemplar Responses: Offering model answers or expected responses to guide examiners.
- Clarifies Marking Criteria: Ensuring consistency and fairness in grading.
- Highlights Common Errors: Advising on pitfalls to watch for during marking.

For Preparatory English Paper 1 2013, the memo is especially crucial because it encapsulates the examiners' standards for that year's paper, enabling markers to apply consistent evaluation criteria and students to understand what is expected of them.

Structural Breakdown of the 2013 Memo

- Introduction and General Instructions

The memo begins with a preamble that emphasizes the importance of adhering to the marking criteria, maintaining objectivity, and understanding that responses should be marked according to the level of achievement, not just correctness.

Key points include:

- The need to mark holistically.
- Emphasis on positive marking (awarding marks for what is correct or well-developed).
- Instructions on handling unusual but valid responses.

- Section-Wise Breakdown

The memo divides the paper into its constituent sections. Each section is accompanied by detailed marking guidelines.

- Section A: Comprehension (e.g., reading passage questions)
- Section B: Language Usage (e.g., vocabulary, grammar)
- Section C: Creative or Expressive Writing (e.g., essays, stories)
- Section D: Editing and Language Conventions (if applicable)

This compartmentalization helps markers to focus on specific skills and ensures that each aspect of language proficiency is assessed systematically.

Detailed Analysis of Key Components

Section A: Comprehension (2013 Paper)

The role of the memo here is to specify:

- How to award marks for correct answers.
- The importance of accuracy and depth of understanding.
- How to handle partial responses.

Example:

- If a student correctly identifies the central theme, they may earn full marks.
- A response that demonstrates partial understanding, such as mentioning a related but not central idea, warrants partial credit.

Common guidelines include:

- Awarding marks for correct identification of main ideas.
- Recognizing supported evidence within the passage.
- Penalizing incorrect or irrelevant answers.

Section B: Language Usage and Grammar

This section evaluates students' language control, vocabulary, sentence structure, and grammatical accuracy.

Memo highlights:

- Points for correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- Recognition of appropriate vocabulary.
- Awarding marks for coherent sentence construction.

For example:

- If a student uses a synonym appropriately in context, full marks are awarded.
- Errors that distort meaning or disrupt clarity may reduce marks.

Common errors noted in the memo include:

- Subject-verb agreement mistakes.
- Incorrect tense usage.
- Run-on sentences or sentence fragments.

Section C: Creative/Expressive Writing

This part assesses creativity, coherence, language control, and relevance.

Key points in the memo:

- Markers should look for originality and development of ideas.
- Clarity of expression is critical.
- The use of appropriate tone and style.

Scoring guidelines:

- Full marks for responses that are well-structured, engaging, and relevant.
- Partial credit for responses demonstrating good ideas but with language errors.
- Deduction for responses that are off-topic or poorly developed.

Section D: Editing and Language Conventions (if applicable)

This segment involves identifying and correcting errors.

Memo considerations:

- Award marks for correct identification of errors.
- Recognize correct corrections made by students.
- Provide guidance on handling multiple errors.

Marking Strategies and Standards

The memo emphasizes a holistic approach combined with objective criteria. It encourages markers to:

- Use descriptive rubrics to justify marks.
- Recognize acceptable variations in responses.
- Be consistent across markers and papers.

Sample grading scale (indicative):

- 80-100%: Excellent understanding and language control.

- 60-79%: Good performance with minor errors.
- 40-59%: Satisfactory but with notable gaps.
- Below 40%: Insufficient response.

Key Features that Make the 2013 Memo a Valuable Resource

- Clarity and Specificity

The memo delineates explicit marking points, leaving little ambiguity. Markers can refer to clear examples and expected responses, ensuring uniformity.

- Comprehensive Coverage

Every question and skill area is addressed, including common pitfalls and how to award partial marks. This thoroughness minimizes inconsistencies.

- Encouragement of Fairness

By emphasizing objectivity and fairness, the memo helps prevent bias, ensuring students are graded equitably based on merit.

- Guidance for Partial Credit

The memo provides detailed criteria for awarding partial marks, which is essential for nuanced assessment.

Practical Applications of the 2013 Memo

For Educators

- Use as a teaching aid to understand what examiners look for.
- Develop model answers aligned with the memo.
- Train markers for consistent grading.

For Students

- Understand what is expected at each level.
- Use as a study guide to focus on key skills.
- Practice self-assessment based on the memo's criteria.

For Exam Preparation

- Identify common question types.
- Develop targeted practice responses.
- Enhance language skills according to outlined standards.

Critical Reflection: Strengths and Limitations

Strengths

- Detailed and systematic guidance.
- Encourages fairness and consistency.
- Facilitates targeted teaching and learning.

Limitations

- May be complex for students to interpret directly.
- Requires marker training to implement effectively.
- Needs to be updated annually to reflect exam changes.

Conclusion

The Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 Memo exemplifies best practices in assessment guidance, serving as a cornerstone for fair and consistent marking while providing invaluable insights into examiners' standards. Its comprehensive structure, detailed marking criteria, and emphasis on objectivity make it an essential resource for anyone involved in English language education at the preparatory level.

By thoroughly understanding and leveraging this memo, educators can enhance their teaching strategies, students can better target their learning efforts, and markers can ensure equitable evaluation. As a product of meticulous examination standards, the 2013 memo remains a benchmark for quality in assessment documentation.

In summary, whether used as a teaching tool, a study guide, or a marking reference, the

Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 Memo is undoubtedly a vital resource that underscores the importance of clarity, fairness, and precision in language assessment.

QuestionAnswer What is the primary focus of the Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 memo? The memo provides detailed answers and marking guidelines for the exam, focusing on comprehension, language use, and writing skills assessed in the paper. How can students effectively use the 2013 memo to improve their exam performance? Students should review the memo to understand the expected answers, marking criteria, and common mistakes, which can help them prepare more effectively and aim for higher marks. Does the memo include sample answers for all sections of the exam? Yes, the memo typically contains sample answers and suggested responses for all sections, including comprehension, language, and writing tasks. Are there specific tips in the memo for answering comprehension questions? Yes, the memo often highlights strategies such as identifying key details, understanding question requirements, and referencing the text accurately. What language skills are emphasized in the Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 memo? The memo emphasizes skills like vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, and clarity of expression to ensure students demonstrate proper language use. How does the memo address common errors students make in the exam? The memo points out frequent mistakes and provides correct responses and explanations, helping students avoid similar errors in future assessments. Is the memo useful for teachers as well as students? Yes, teachers use the memo to guide marking, understand expected answers, and prepare students more effectively for similar exams. Are there any specific recommendations in the memo for time management during the exam? While the memo mainly focuses on content and answers, it often suggests allocating time appropriately to ensure all sections are completed. Where can students access the official Preparatory English Paper 1 2013 memo? Students can typically access the memo through their school, official examination board websites, or authorized educational resource platforms.

Related keywords: preparatory English paper 1 2013, memo, exam solutions, answer key, grade 11 English, exam paper 2013, marking scheme, language comprehension, exam tips, assessment guide

An introduction to english language

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone

interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes—Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450–1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.
- **Middle English (c. 1150–1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.
- **Early Modern English (c. 1500–1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.
- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to William Shakespeare's plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language's development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages
- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages
- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard
- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world's primary lingua franca—an auxiliary language used for international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms
- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English

- Learn English online
- English language development
- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes—namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450–1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like *Beowulf*.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150–1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings

and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar, making literature more accessible.
- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.
- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.
- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation

- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation
- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)
- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English's structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English's significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today's interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

Question What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. **Answer** How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the

Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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