

Who Wants to be a Linguist?

Old English is considered what sort of a language?

- a. Analytic
- b. Agglutinative
- c. Infixational
- d. Synthetic

Old English is considered synthetic because

- a. Linguists can only speculate on its grammar
- b. It is a dead language
- c. Grammar is largely determined by word order
- d. Grammar is largely determined by inflectional and derivational endings

The King James Bible is also known as

- a. The Authorized Bible
- b. The Great Bible
- c. The Jacobean Bible
- d. The Revised Standard Version

The transition between Old and Middle English is traditionally marked by

- a. The English Channel
- b. The Norman Invasion
- c. The Conversion of Kent
- d. The War of the Roses

The Bayeux Tapestry commemorates

- a. The loss of grammatical gender
- b. The English victory over the French
- c. The French victory over the English
- d. The Saxon victory over the Romanized Celts

Scandinavian contributions to Old English vocabulary are found especially in words about

- A. Naval warfare
- B. Agricultural innovation
- C. Castle architecture
- D. Bonfires

Specimen A represents language of what period?

- A. Old English
- B. Middle English
- C. Renaissance English
- D. Klingon

Bonus: Identify a specific characteristic feature in the passage.

William Caxton was particularly concerned about the state of English because

- a. he wanted to publish a series of grammar guides
- b. he hoped to preserve Old English culture
- c. he was unable to order font sets with Old English characters
- d. he wanted to sell his books to the widest audience possible

Middle English is considered what sort of a language?

- a. Analytic
- b. Aglutinatic
- c. Infixational
- d. Synthetic

The designation of Middle English as an analytic language reflects all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Rise of the possessive prepositional phrase
- b. Increased reliance on word order
- c. Elimination of strong/weak adjective distinctions
- d. Increased influence of French syntax

Specimen B represents language of what period?

- A. Old English
- B. Middle English
- C. Renaissance English
- D. Klingon

Bonus: Identify a specific characteristic feature in the passage.

Prose marked by hypotaxis is especially associated with language of the

- a. Indo-European period
- b. Old English period
- c. Middle English period
- d. Renaissance

Middle English phonetics did not apparently differentiate between voiced and unvoiced labio-dental fricatives. This feature can be noted by contrasting such word pairs as

- A. Shirt / Skirt
- B. Brit / Pict
- C. Knife / Knives
- D. Child / Children

Prose marked by hypotaxis is especially associated with

- a. multi-syllabic words
- b. subordinate and relative clauses
- c. inverted diction, such as DO-S-V word order
- d. rhetorical questions

The name Norman reflects that people's

- a. Location in northern France
- b. Designation of a "no man's" land between France and England
- c. First great king, Norm the Magnificent
- d. Emigration from the north (Scandinavia)

King Harold never saw this coming at the Battle of Hastings:

- a. an arrow in the eye
- b. troop reinforcements from Scandinavia
- c. loss of grammatical gender
- d. William's surprise attack

Geoffrey Chaucer is a famous author associated with which language?

- A. Celtic-Roman Latin
- B. Old English
- C. Middle English
- D. Early Modern English

Specimen C represents language of what period?

- A. Old English
- B. Middle English
- C. Renaissance English
- D. Klingon

Bonus: Identify a specific characteristic feature in the passage.

The Renaissance also goes by this name:

- a. Post-Medieval
- b. Early Modern
- c. Pre-Modern
- d. Early Contemporary

Letters like æ, þ, and ð are particularly associated with

- A. Celtic-Roman Latin
- B. Old English
- C. Middle English
- D. Early Modern English

This person introduced printing to England

- a. Wynken de Worde
- b. Johan Gutenberg
- c. Charles Presser
- d. William Caxton

The silent terminal 'e' at the end of many Middle English and Renaissance words results from

- A. The Great Vowel Shift
- B. Attempts to indicate vowel length for pronunciation
- C. Lack of certain Old English letter forms in printing fonts
- D. Partial ellipsis of Old English inflectional endings

The post-Renaissance pronunciation of /pθ/ as /pi/ results from

- a. Shift in voiced to unvoiced sound
- b. Rise in paratactic style
- c. Misunderstanding of Renaissance printing fonts
- d. Etymological respellings

Specimen D represents language of what period?

- A. Old English
- B. Middle English
- C. Renaissance English
- D. Klingon

Bonus: Identify a specific characteristic feature in the passage.

Prose marked by parataxis is especially associated with language of the

- a. Indo-European period
- b. Old English period
- c. Middle English period
- d. Renaissance period

Old English's designation as a synthetic language reflects all of these except

- a. Inflectional endings
- b. Grammatical gender
- c. Lack of reliance on word order
- d. Absence of progressive aspect in the verb

Beowulf is a famous poem associated with which language?

- A. Celtic-Roman Latin
- B. Old English
- C. Middle English
- D. Early Modern English

The Great Vowel Shift occurs

- a. before the introduction of printing to England
- b. after the introduction of printing to England
- c. because of the introduction of printing to England
- d. in order to promote printing in England

If a verb shows change in tense by changing its internal vowel, the verb is considered

- A. Strong
- B. Weak
- C. Masculine
- D. Feminine

The Celtic language was the first language used in Britain. Which statement is true?

- a. Celtic syntax is foundational to Anglo-Saxon
- b. Much Celtic vocabulary was absorbed into Anglo-Saxon
- c. Few Celtic words survived into English
- d. Celtic language died out but was revived by the Normans

The Great Vowel Shift is associated with

- a. the transition from Old to Middle English
- b. the transition from Middle to Early Modern English
- c. the transition from Renaissance to Eighteenth-century English
- d. All periods

The Norman Invasion was largely won at the Battle of

- A. Dover
- B. Brighton
- C. Agincourt
- D. Hastings

William the Conqueror is said to have only learned enough English to

- A. Order food
- B. Order enemies executed
- C. Swear
- D. Order British nobles to give up their positions

“Aureate diction” refers to

- a. Golden language
- b. Pronunciation irregularities
- c. English words modified with Latin endings
- d. Latin words modified with English endings

The Great Vowel Shift involves

- a. Only loose vowels
- b. Only rounded vowels
- c. Long vowels
- d. Short vowels

In the Great Vowel Shift,

- a. Long vowels move laterally
- b. Long vowels moved up a step
- c. Long vowels moved down a step
- d. Long vowels are replaced by short vowels

Renaissance orthography and printing often interchange all of these pairs
EXCEPT

- a. I/J
- b. U/V
- c. I/Y
- d. K/C

In terms of vocabulary, Shakespeare's language does all of the following
EXCEPT

- a. Draws on the vocabulary and phonology of eastern England
- b. Often involves functional shifts
- c. Often involves apparent coinages (neologisms)
- d. Often involves semantic shifts

Shakespeare's vocabulary has been estimated at approximately

- a. 15000 words
- b. 25000 words
- c. 35000 words
- d. 45000 words

The vocabulary of the King James Bible is approximately

- a. 2000 words (~ 1/17 of Shakespeare's)
- b. 4000 words (~ 1/9 of Shakespeare's)
- c. 6000 words (~ 1/6 of Shakespeare's)
- d. 8000 words (~ 1/4 of Shakespeare's)

In terms of syntax, the King James Bible is

- a. Indo-European
- b. Radical
- c. Conservative
- d. Aureate

The King James Bible resulted from the work of a

- a. John Bois (single translator)
- b. King James (single translator)
- c. Committee of translators (led by John Bois)
- d. Committee of translators (led by King James)

Christianity reached England with the “conversion of Kent” in AD 597 at Kent’s capital city of

- a. London
- b. Kent upon Thames
- c. Canterbury
- d. Kentwich

By the rules of adjective usage that developed during the Renaissance, the adjective “pretentious” would develop its comparative and superlative forms by

- a. Sheer luck
- b. Synthetic method (strong)
- c. Analytic method (weak)
- d. Great vowel shift

One social consequence of the Norman Invasion was the rapid

- a. Rise of the goatee
- b. Increase in pierced ears
- c. Decline of the mustache
- d. Interest in archery

The first word of all surviving complete Anglo-Saxon epic poems is

- a. Hwæzzup!
- b. Hwello!
- c. Hwody!
- d. Hwæt!

A surprising feature of Old English phonology is that this sound apparently had no phonemic significance:

- a. /æ/
- b. /θ/
- c. /k/
- d. /t/

The number of strong verbs in English

- a. Remained constant in the Old English period
- b. Increased in the Middle Ages
- c. Increased in the Renaissance
- d. Declined in the Renaissance

Etymological respellings (e.g., *trone* to *throne*) result from Renaissance attempts to

- a. Indicate word's etymologies without intending to alter pronunciation
- b. Repeal Grimm's Law
- c. Modernize words to contemporary phonological standards
- d. Better indicate a word's morphemic structure

The Germanic language spoken by the peoples who invaded Britain contained a number of Latin words absorbed through contact with the Roman empire while still living in Germany. This set of Latin words is known as Latin of the

- a. Zero period
- b. First period
- c. Second period
- d. Third period

The peoples living in Britain absorbed some Latin into their language during the British occupation of Britain. This set of Latin words is known as Latin of the

- a. Zero period
- b. First period
- c. Second period
- d. Third period

A number of Latin words entered English through contact with the Roman Catholic church. This set of Latin words is known as Latin of the

- a. Zero period
- b. First period
- c. Second period
- d. Third period

Scholars divide Latin of the second period into two groups. The first group reflects the practical language of establishing the church into daily life. The second group of words is more scholarly, reflecting

- a. the Norman invasion
- b. The Benedictine Reform
- c. Cædmon's Hymn
- d. The Reformation

The Benedictine Reform is important to the development of language because

- a. It forbid monks to use any language other than Latin
- b. Monastic misogyny attacked grammatical gender
- c. Its emphasis on theological and philosophical scholarship required a specialized vocabulary
- d. It was a sublime time when rhyme was a crime

During the medieval period, some English and French word pairs were

synonymous. In such cases, differentiation in meaning resulted with the general trend that

- a. The French word underwent pejoration; the English, amelioration
- b. The French word survived, and the English word dropped from use
- c. The English word underwent pejoration; the French, amelioration
- d. The English word survived, and the French word dropped from use

Some verbs in current usage have a weak past tense and strong participle. These forms suggest that

- a. The verbs are medieval strong verbs in transition to purely weak verbs
- b. The verbs entered English relatively recently and have not yet established regular patterns
- c. The verbs are current forms in the process of back formation to purely strong verbs
- d. The modern verb is a hybrid of two earlier words

This king encouraged the translation of classical learning into Anglo-Saxon.

- a. William
- b. Harold
- c. Alfred
- d. James

William Caxton's famous complaint about language emphasized

- a. that there are too many varieties of English
- b. that it is too difficult to learn inflectional endings
- c. that Britain needs more restaurants
- d. that using French is an insult to British nationalism

The following words are likely introduced into Old English by Scandinavians:

- a. skirt, sky, scathing
- b. victory, viceroy, vodka
- c. bread, baleful, blossom
- d. ship, shirk, assure

Specimen G represents language of what period?

- A. Old English
- B. Middle English
- C. Renaissance English
- D. Klingon