

English grammar and vocabulary for bengali medium Full Version

English Grammar and Vocabulary for Bengali Medium

Understanding and mastering English grammar and vocabulary is essential for Bengali medium students aiming to excel in their academic and professional pursuits. English, being a global language, opens doors to numerous opportunities, and a solid foundation in its grammar and vocabulary enhances communication skills, confidence, and comprehension. This comprehensive guide provides valuable insights and practical tips tailored specifically for Bengali medium learners to improve their command over English effectively.

Importance of Learning English Grammar and Vocabulary in Bengali Medium

- Enhanced Communication Skills: Proper grammar and a broad vocabulary enable clear and effective expression in both spoken and written English.
- Academic Success: English is often the medium of instruction in many subjects; proficiency aids in better understanding and academic performance.
- Career Opportunities: Fluency in English increases employability and opens doors to international careers.
- Cultural Access: English literature, media, and technological content become more accessible and enjoyable.

Challenges Faced by Bengali Medium Students

- Limited exposure to English outside the classroom
- Lack of structured learning resources tailored for Bengali speakers
- Difficulties in pronunciation and grammar rules
- Limited vocabulary due to regional language dominance

Despite these challenges, with targeted strategies and consistent practice, Bengali medium students can attain proficiency in English.

Foundations of English Grammar for Bengali Medium Learners

1. Parts of Speech

Understanding parts of speech is fundamental to mastering English grammar. They include:

- Nouns: Names of persons, places, things, or ideas (e.g., book, Dhaka, happiness)
- Pronouns: Words used instead of nouns (e.g., he, she, they)
- Verbs: Action or state words (e.g., run, is)
- Adjectives: Describe nouns (e.g., beautiful, tall)
- Adverbs: Describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs (e.g., quickly, very)
- Prepositions: Show relationships between nouns/pronouns and other words (e.g., in, on, at)
- Conjunctions: Connect words or clauses (e.g., and, but, because)
- Interjections: Express emotions (e.g., oh!, wow!)

2. Sentence Structure

Understanding sentence structure is crucial:

- Simple Sentence: Contains a subject and predicate (e.g., She runs.)
- Compound Sentence: Two independent clauses joined by a conjunction (e.g., I like tea, but I prefer coffee.)
- Complex Sentence: An independent clause with one or more dependent clauses (e.g., Because it rained, the game was canceled.)

3. Tenses

Tenses indicate the time of action:

- Present Tense: I eat, She is reading
- Past Tense: I ate, She was reading
- Future Tense: I will eat, She will be reading

Understanding tense forms and their correct usage is vital for accurate communication.

4. Articles and Determiners

Articles ('a', 'an', 'the') specify nouns. Use them appropriately:

- 'A' before words starting with consonant sounds
- 'An' before words starting with vowel sounds
- 'The' for specific nouns

5. Active and Passive Voice

Transforming sentences:

- Active: The teacher teaches students.
- Passive: Students are taught by the teacher.

Building English Vocabulary for Bengali Medium Students

1. Strategies for Vocabulary Development

To expand vocabulary:

- Read Regularly: Newspapers, magazines, English books
- Use a Vocabulary Notebook: Record new words with meanings and example sentences
- Learn Synonyms and Antonyms: To enrich language use
- Engage in Word Games: Crosswords, Scrabble, vocabulary quizzes
- Practice Contextual Learning: Understand how words are used in sentences

2. Commonly Used English Words for Bengali Medium Learners

Start with frequently used words:

- Greetings: Hello, Good morning, Goodbye
- Everyday Verbs: Go, Come, Eat, Sleep, Read, Write
- Descriptors: Big, Small, Beautiful, Difficult, Easy
- Prepositions: In, On, Under, Between, Behind
- Question Words: Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

3. Enhancing Listening and Speaking Skills

- Listen to English news, songs, and movies
- Practice speaking with friends or tutors

- Repeat and memorize common phrases

4. Vocabulary Building Tools and Resources

- Mobile apps like Duolingo, Memrise
- Online dictionaries (e.g., Oxford, Cambridge)
- English learning websites and YouTube channels
- Local libraries and educational centers

Practical Tips for Improving English Grammar and Vocabulary

- Consistent Practice: Dedicate daily time to reading, writing, and speaking
- Join English Clubs or Groups: Engage with peers for conversational practice
- Use Flashcards: For quick revision of vocabulary and grammar rules
- Write Regularly: Essays, diaries, or summaries to reinforce learning
- Seek Feedback: From teachers or fluent speakers
- Focus on Mistakes: Learn from errors to avoid repeating them

Sample Exercises for Bengali Medium Students

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles

- I saw ____ cat in ____ garden.
- She is ____ honest girl.
- They want ____ apple.

Exercise 2: Convert active sentences to passive voice

- The teacher teaches students.
- She writes a letter.
- They will complete the project.

Exercise 3: Vocabulary matching

Match the words with their meanings:

| Word | Meaning |

|-----|-----|

| Happy | Feeling joyful |

| Difficult | Not easy |

| Bright | Giving off lots of light |

| Brave | Not afraid |

Conclusion

Mastering English grammar and vocabulary is a gradual process that demands patience, dedication, and consistent effort, especially for Bengali medium students. By understanding the basics of parts of speech, sentence structure, and tenses, and by actively expanding vocabulary through reading, practice, and engagement, learners can significantly improve their English skills. Remember, the key to success lies in regular practice, seeking help when needed, and maintaining a positive attitude toward learning. With perseverance, Bengali medium students can confidently communicate in English and unlock numerous academic and professional opportunities.

Start your journey today?embrace the challenge of learning English grammar and vocabulary, and watch your language skills flourish!

English Grammar and Vocabulary for Bengali Medium Learners: An Expert Review

In the journey of mastering the English language, especially for students in Bengali medium schools, the terrain can often seem daunting. The transition from Bengali to English involves not only learning new words but also understanding complex grammatical structures. As an educational expert and language enthusiast, I have closely examined the resources, methodologies, and tools available to Bengali medium students aiming to excel in English. This comprehensive review aims to shed light on effective strategies, essential components, and practical tips to enhance your English grammar and vocabulary skills.

Understanding the Importance of Grammar and Vocabulary

Before diving into specific learning strategies, it is crucial to recognize why grammar and vocabulary are foundational to mastering English.

The Role of Grammar

Grammar provides the rules and structure that make communication clear and effective. It governs

sentence formation, tense consistency, subject-verb agreement, and proper use of parts of speech. For Bengali medium learners, grasping English grammar bridges the gap between understanding and meaningful expression.

The Significance of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the treasure chest of words that enables learners to express ideas, emotions, and information precisely. A rich vocabulary enhances reading comprehension, writing skills, and spoken fluency. For Bengali medium students, expanding vocabulary opens doors to higher academic performance and confident communication.

Challenges Faced by Bengali Medium Learners

Understanding common hurdles helps in designing effective learning approaches. Some prevalent challenges include:

- Language Transfer Errors: Interference from Bengali syntax and expressions leading to grammatical mistakes in English.
- Limited Exposure: Insufficient practice with diverse vocabulary and sentence structures.
- Grammar Complexity: Difficulties in understanding tenses, articles, prepositions, and sentence structures.
- Lack of Contextual Learning: Memorizing words without understanding usage and nuances.

Addressing these challenges requires tailored strategies that cater specifically to Bengali medium students.

Effective Strategies to Improve English Grammar

Here, we delve into the core grammatical areas and practical methods to master them.

1. Building a Strong Foundation in Parts of Speech

Understanding parts of speech—nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections—is essential.

- Nouns & Pronouns: Focus on common nouns and pronouns, along with their plural forms and case usage.
- Verbs: Learn regular and irregular verbs, along with tense forms.
- Adjectives & Adverbs: Practice identifying and using descriptive words in sentences.

- Prepositions & Conjunctions: Understand their role in connecting ideas and indicating relationships.

Tip: Create charts and flashcards to categorize parts of speech with examples.

2. Mastering Tenses and Verb Forms

Tenses are often challenging but are pivotal in conveying time.

- Present Tense: Simple, continuous, and perfect forms.
- Past Tense: Regular and irregular verb forms.
- Future Tense: Will/shall + base verb, going to, and other structures.

Practical approach: Use timelines to visualize tense usage. Practice transforming sentences from one tense to another.

3. Sentence Structure and Syntax

A clear sentence follows a logical structure: Subject + Verb + Object.

- Simple Sentences: "He plays football."
- Compound Sentences: "He plays football, and he watches TV."
- Complex Sentences: "Because he was tired, he went home."

Exercise: Practice rewriting sentences with varied structures to enhance flexibility.

4. Articles and Prepositions

Articles ('a', 'an', 'the') and prepositions ('in', 'on', 'at', 'by') are tricky yet vital.

- Articles: Understand usage rules with countable and uncountable nouns.
- Prepositions: Learn common prepositional phrases and their contexts.

Tip: Use fill-in-the-blank exercises to practice correct article and preposition placement.

5. Common Grammar Exercises and Practice Tests

Regular practice tests help identify weak areas. Many books and online resources provide

chapter-wise exercises with answer keys.

Strategies to Expand Vocabulary Effectively

Building a robust vocabulary requires systematic effort and contextual understanding.

1. Thematic Vocabulary Learning

Focus on core themes like food, transportation, health, school, and emotions. Learning words in context helps retention.

Example: For a theme 'School', learn words like 'teacher', 'student', 'classroom', 'lesson', 'exam'.

2. Use of Vocabulary Books and Flashcards

Invest in graded vocabulary books designed for Bengali medium students or create personalized flashcards with word meanings, synonyms, antonyms, and example sentences.

3. Reading Widely and Regularly

Encourage reading simple stories, newspapers, and magazines in English. Highlight unfamiliar words and look up their meanings.

Tip: Maintain a vocabulary notebook for new words and revisit regularly.

4. Contextual Practice and Usage

Don't just memorize words; practice using them in sentences, essays, and conversations.

Exercise: Write short paragraphs using new vocabulary words.

5. Incorporating Multimedia Resources

Use educational videos, language apps, and online quizzes tailored for Bengali medium learners. These tools often present vocabulary in engaging contexts.

Recommended Learning Materials and Resources

To optimize your learning, select quality resources tailored for Bengali medium students:

- Grammar Books: "English Grammar for Bengali Medium" by reputed publishers.
- Vocabulary Guides: "Essential English Vocabulary" series with graded word lists.
- Online Platforms: Websites like British Council's LearnEnglish, and mobile apps such as Duolingo and HelloEnglish.
- Practice Worksheets: Available on educational portals and in school textbooks.

Practical Tips for Consistent Improvement

- Set Daily Goals: Dedicate a specific time daily for grammar and vocabulary practice.
- Engage in Conversations: Practice speaking with friends, teachers, or language partners.
- Write Regularly: Maintain a journal or write essays to reinforce grammar and vocabulary.
- Seek Feedback: Ask teachers or language experts to review your writing and speaking.
- Be Patient and Persistent: Language mastery is a gradual process; consistent effort yields results.

Conclusion: Bridging the Gap from Bengali to English

Mastering English grammar and vocabulary as a Bengali medium learner is undoubtedly challenging but entirely achievable with the right approach. Emphasizing foundational grammar, expanding vocabulary through contextual learning, and practicing regularly are the pillars of success. Remember, patience and perseverance are key. With dedicated effort, the language barrier transforms into a bridge of opportunities, enabling you to communicate confidently, excel academically, and open doors to global avenues.

Final Thought: Think of English language mastery as building a house?solid foundations in grammar and a rich vocabulary are essential for a sturdy structure. Equip yourself with the right tools, practice diligently, and watch your language skills flourish.

QuestionAnswer What are some effective ways to improve English vocabulary for Bengali medium students? Students can enhance their vocabulary by reading English books, newspapers, and magazines regularly, noting new words, and practicing their usage. Using flashcards, vocabulary apps, and engaging in conversations can also boost retention and understanding. How can Bengali medium students master English grammar rules easily? Breaking down grammar rules into simple, manageable parts, practicing with exercises, and seeking help from teachers or online resources can make mastering English grammar easier. Regular practice and applying rules in speaking and writing are key. What are common mistakes Bengali students make in English grammar, and how can they avoid them? Common mistakes include incorrect verb tenses, subject-verb agreement, and improper use of articles. To avoid these, students should study grammar rules carefully, practice exercises, and read English texts to see correct usage in context. Which English vocabulary words are most useful for Bengali medium students to learn first? Basic

and frequently used words such as greetings, common nouns, verbs, adjectives, and everyday expressions are most useful. Learning words related to daily activities, school, family, and common objects helps in practical communication. Are there any recommended online resources or apps for Bengali medium students to improve their English skills? Yes, platforms like Duolingo, BBC Learning English, and English grammar apps such as LearnEnglish Grammar are helpful. Additionally, websites like EngVid and YouTube channels dedicated to English learning can provide free lessons tailored for Bengali medium students.

Related keywords: English grammar, English vocabulary, Bengali medium learners, English lessons, grammar for Bengali speakers, vocabulary building, English language learning, Bengali medium education, language skills, English practice

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.

QuestionAnswer 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. 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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