

# the new lovecraft circle stories english edition Complete Guide

## The New Lovecraft Circle Stories English Edition

### Introduction to the Lovecraft Circle and Its Significance

*The new Lovecraft circle stories English edition* marks a pivotal moment for fans of cosmic horror and weird fiction. It represents a curated compilation of stories that expand upon the mythos originally conceived by H.P. Lovecraft, bringing together works from contemporary authors influenced by his legacy. This edition aims to preserve the atmospheric dread, intricate mythologies, and literary richness that define Lovecraft's universe, while introducing fresh narratives that resonate with modern audiences.

### Background: Lovecraft and His Literary Circle

#### The Origins of Lovecraft's Mythos

H.P. Lovecraft, born in 1890, is renowned for pioneering the genre of cosmic horror—a style characterized by the unknown, the unknowable, and the insignificance of humanity within the universe. His stories often feature ancient gods, forbidden knowledge, and otherworldly terrors that evoke both fear and curiosity.

#### The Lovecraft Circle and Its Legacy

During Lovecraft's lifetime, a community of writers and friends formed around his work, collectively known as the "Lovecraft Circle." Members such as August Derleth, Clark Ashton Smith, Robert E. Howard, and others expanded on his mythos, creating a shared universe filled with interconnected stories, mythologies, and characters.

This collaborative and influence-driven environment helped cement Lovecraft's influence on the genre, inspiring countless writers, artists, and publishers to continue exploring the cosmic horrors he envisioned.

#### The Significance of the English Edition

#### Accessibility and Global Reach

The new English edition makes these stories accessible to a broader audience, especially given the global popularity of Lovecraft's work. As much of the original material was published in pulp magazines or limited editions, this compilation aims to democratize access to these narratives.

## Preservation and Modern Interpretation

The edition not only preserves classic stories but also offers modern interpretations and new contributions, ensuring that the mythos remains relevant and vibrant in contemporary literature.

## Content Overview of the New Lovecraft Circle Stories English Edition

### Classic Stories Revisited

- Lovecraft's Original Works: Key stories such as *The Call of Cthulhu*, *At the Mountains of Madness*, and *The Shadow over Innsmouth* are included, often with new annotations or introductions that provide historical context.

- Influence of Original Stories: The edition emphasizes stories that directly draw from Lovecraft's mythos, illustrating how his ideas have permeated subsequent works.

### New Contributions and Expansions

- Contemporary Writers: The anthology features new stories by modern authors inspired by Lovecraft's universe, such as Caitlín R. Kiernan, China Miéville, and others.

- Mythos Expansion: These stories often explore new aspects of the mythos, introduce novel entities, or reinterpret older themes through diverse cultural lenses.

## Key Features of the Edition

### Curated Selection

The editors have meticulously selected stories to balance classic and modern voices, ensuring a comprehensive experience for readers.

### Annotations and Scholarly Material

- Historical Context: Background information on each story and author enhances understanding.

- Mythos Glossary: Definitions of key terms, deities, and concepts within the universe aid newcomers.

## Illustrations and Cover Art

The edition features atmospheric artwork that complements the stories, enriching the reading experience.

## Themes and Motifs Explored

### Cosmic Indifference

A central theme in Lovecraftian fiction is the universe's indifference to humanity, often depicted through stories emphasizing mankind's vulnerability in face of ancient, indifferent cosmic entities.

### Forbidden Knowledge

Many stories revolve around characters uncovering truths that lead to madness or doom, emphasizing the peril of seeking knowledge beyond human comprehension.

### Heritage and Ancestry

Some stories explore ancestral connections to mythic entities or ancient civilizations, adding depth to the mythos.

## Impact and Reception

### Critical Acclaim

The new edition has been praised for its comprehensive selection, high-quality presentation, and the seamless blending of classic and new stories.

### Cultural Significance

It helps to sustain and evolve the Lovecraftian tradition, inspiring new generations of writers, artists, and fans. It also sparks dialogues about the ethics and cultural implications of Lovecraft's themes, especially considering his controversial views.

## How to Approach the Edition

### For New Readers

- Start with the Classics: Familiarize yourself with key stories to grasp the core themes.
- Explore Modern Tales: Dive into contemporary stories that expand the mythos creatively.
- Use Annotations: Leverage scholarly notes and glossaries for a richer understanding.

### For Longtime Fans

- Compare Versions: Appreciate new annotations or adaptations.
- Discover New Voices: Engage with stories by emerging authors influenced by Lovecraft.
- Participate in Discussions: Join online communities or reading groups to discuss themes and interpretations.

## Future Prospects and Continued Influence

### Expanding the Mythos

The ongoing development of the Lovecraftian universe suggests future editions will include even more diverse voices, potentially incorporating non-Western mythologies and perspectives.

### Adaptations Across Media

Beyond literature, the mythos continues to inspire films, games, and art, further cementing its place in popular culture.

### Ethical Considerations

Recent discourse encourages writers and publishers to reflect on Lovecraft's problematic aspects, promoting inclusivity and sensitivity while honoring his literary contributions.

## Conclusion

*The new Lovecraft circle stories English edition* stands as a testament to the enduring fascination with cosmic horror and the collaborative spirit that has kept Lovecraft's universe alive for over a century. By bridging the gap between the classic stories and modern interpretations, this edition offers a comprehensive, immersive experience for both new readers and seasoned aficionados. It not only preserves the mythos but also propels it forward, ensuring that the tales of ancient gods, forbidden knowledge, and cosmic indifference continue to inspire and terrify in equal measure for generations to come.

## The New Lovecraft Circle Stories English Edition: An In-Depth Exploration

In recent years, the literary landscape has seen a resurgence of interest in the mythos pioneered by H.P. Lovecraft, with many contemporary authors contributing new stories that expand upon his universe. The new Lovecraft circle stories English edition stands out as a comprehensive collection that not only showcases these modern interpretations but also offers a curated glimpse into how Lovecraft's influence continues to evolve. This edition provides both dedicated fans and newcomers with a rich tapestry of cosmic horror, myth-building, and storytelling innovation rooted in Lovecraft's original vision.

## Understanding the Lovecraft Circle and Its Modern Revival

### Who Were the Original Lovecraft Circle?

The term "Lovecraft Circle" originally referred to the group of writers and artists who collaborated with or were influenced by H.P. Lovecraft during his lifetime and shortly thereafter. Notable figures include Clark Ashton Smith, Robert E. Howard, and August Derleth, each contributing stories, artworks, and mythos expansions that helped shape the Cthulhu Mythos.

### The Modern Expansion: New Lovecraft Circle Stories

Decades after Lovecraft's death, a new generation of writers began revisiting his universe, adding their own stories and perspectives. This movement has produced what is now known as the "New Lovecraft Circle," a collective of authors actively contributing to the mythos with fresh ideas, diverse settings, and contemporary themes. The new Lovecraft circle stories English edition collates many of these works, making them accessible to English-speaking audiences and providing a cohesive overview of the ongoing mythos development.

### What Is Included in the English Edition?

The edition in question typically features:

- Selected stories from prominent contemporary authors inspired by Lovecraft's universe.
- Historical and critical essays providing context and analysis.
- Author introductions and commentaries that shed light on their creative processes.
- A chronological or thematic organization that guides readers through the evolution of the mythos.

### Notable Authors and Stories Featured

Some of the key contributors and their stories include:

- Caitlín R. Kiernan: Known for her atmospheric and psychologically complex tales.
- Ramsey Campbell: Bringing a British sensibility to cosmic horror.
- Laird Barron: Incorporating noir and horror elements with mythos themes.
- Allegra Hyde: Offering fresh perspectives on familiar mythos motifs.

These stories often reinterpret Lovecraftian themes—such as ancient cosmic entities, forbidden knowledge, and human insignificance—through modern lenses like social commentary, psychological horror, and diverse cultural influences.

### The Significance of the Collection in Contemporary Horror Literature

#### Celebrating Evolution and Diversity

One of the most remarkable aspects of the new Lovecraft circle stories English edition is its commitment to diversity. Modern mythos writers are increasingly exploring perspectives beyond Lovecraft's own background, leading to stories that feature different cultural mythologies, characters, and thematic concerns.

#### Bridging Past and Present

The collection acts as a bridge between Lovecraft's original works and contemporary literary trends. It demonstrates how the core themes of cosmic horror—fear of the unknown, helplessness in the face of vast universe—remain relevant today, but are now expressed through diverse storytelling styles and social commentary.

#### Encouraging New Interpretations

By including essays and author commentaries, the edition fosters a deeper understanding of how contemporary writers interpret Lovecraft's themes, often challenging or expanding upon his ideas. This dialogue enriches the mythos and invites readers to consider new angles on the traditional

motifs.

## The Cultural and Literary Impact of the New Stories

### Expanding the Mythos

These modern stories do not merely imitate Lovecraft; they expand the mythos by:

- Introducing new entities and cosmologies.
- Reimagining traditional monsters with nuanced backstories.
- Incorporating contemporary issues like environmental crises, identity, and political tensions.

### Challenging Lovecraft's Legacy

While Lovecraft's work has faced criticism for its problematic aspects, the new stories often engage critically with his legacy, either by addressing his biases or by offering alternative viewpoints. This engagement allows for a more inclusive and nuanced mythos that reflects today's diverse society.

### Inspiring Future Writers

The collection serves as a springboard for aspiring writers eager to contribute to the mythos, illustrating how contemporary storytelling can build upon a classic foundation while pushing boundaries.

## How to Approach the Collection: Tips for Readers

### Start with Thematic Curiosity

Identify which themes resonate most—cosmic nihilism, haunted landscapes, alien beings—and seek stories within the collection that explore those ideas.

### Explore Author Backgrounds

Reading about the authors' influences and perspectives can deepen appreciation and understanding of their stories.

### Engage with Critical Essays

The included essays can provide valuable insights into the stories' contexts, symbolism, and connections to Lovecraft's universe.

## Participate in Community Discussions

Join online forums or book clubs dedicated to Lovecraftian horror to share interpretations and discover new stories and authors.

## Conclusion: Why the New Lovecraft Circle Stories English Edition Matters

The new Lovecraft circle stories English edition is more than just a collection of horror stories; it's a testament to the enduring influence of Lovecraft's universe and its capacity for renewal. By bringing together contemporary voices that respect and reimagine his mythos, the edition offers a vibrant, diverse, and intellectually stimulating experience. Whether you are a die-hard Lovecraft enthusiast or a newcomer curious about cosmic horror, this collection invites you to explore the vast, mysterious universe that continues to inspire and challenge writers and readers alike.

In summary, the new Lovecraft circle stories English edition is a vital addition to modern horror literature, blending tradition with innovation and fostering a dynamic dialogue across generations of storytellers. Its pages are a gateway to understanding how Lovecraft's cosmic fears have transformed and expanded in the hands of today's writers, ensuring that the mythos remains alive, relevant, and endlessly fascinating.

**Question** What is the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition? The 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition is a curated collection of stories inspired by H.P. Lovecraft, featuring contemporary authors who expand upon his mythos in a modern language and style. **Answer** Who are some of the authors included in the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition? The edition includes works by notable authors such as Caitlín R. Kiernan, Ramsey Campbell, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Caitlín R. Kiernan, and other prominent writers who contribute to the Lovecraftian universe. When was the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition published? The latest edition was published in 2023, making it one of the most recent compilations of contemporary Lovecraft-inspired stories. Where can I purchase the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition? You can find the collection on major online booksellers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and specialized horror and science fiction bookstores. What makes the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' different from earlier Lovecraft anthologies? This edition features modern authors and fresh perspectives, expanding Lovecraft's mythos with contemporary themes, diverse voices, and updated language, making it more accessible to today's readers. Are there any standalone stories in the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition? Yes, the collection includes both interconnected stories within Lovecraft's mythos and standalone tales inspired by his work. Is the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition suitable for new Lovecraft readers? Absolutely, it is designed to be accessible for newcomers while also providing depth for longtime fans of Lovecraftian horror. Does the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' edition include illustrations or supplementary material? Some editions feature artwork and essays that provide context about the stories and their connections to Lovecraft's universe, enhancing the reading experience. Will there be future editions or expansions of the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories'?

collection? While there are no official announcements yet, the success of this edition suggests that future volumes or expanded collections may be released to include more contemporary Lovecraft-inspired stories. How does the 'New Lovecraft Circle Stories' English edition contribute to the Lovecraftian genre? It revitalizes the genre by showcasing diverse modern voices, expanding the mythos, and keeping Lovecraft's influence alive in contemporary horror and science fiction literature.

**Related keywords:** Lovecraftian fiction, cosmic horror, weird stories, horror anthology, supernatural tales, horror collection, eldritch fiction, literary horror, mythos stories, horror literature

## 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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