

# 7 The English Language

The English language, like most European languages, has roots in an ancient language, Indo-European, that existed around 5000 BC. No Indo-European writings exist from that time. **Linguists** can, however, learn about this ancient language by finding common words in modern languages. Because of its **roots**, English is considered part of the Germanic language family along with Dutch and German. By 1,000 BC the **Celtic** language was spoken throughout England. Then an invasion occurred, explained below. Two thousand years later French was the language of upper classes in England, and English was only spoken by the working class. English has borrowed Celtic words such as *penguin*, *gull* and *trousers*, and many other words from Latin, Greek, and French. Today, people in several countries speak English as their native language. In addition, English is the common language for citizens in countries like India and Singapore. English became the *lingua franca* for historical reasons such as England's **colonization** of other countries, and modern reasons like the popularity of Hollywood movies.

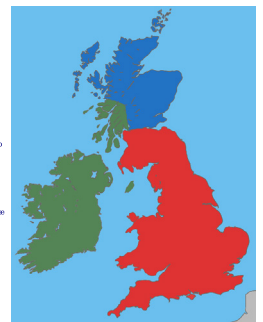
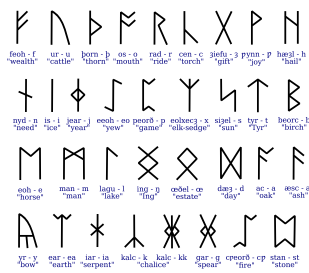
Check the above bold words and read the paragraph. Challenge words are in red.



Germanic  
British Isles

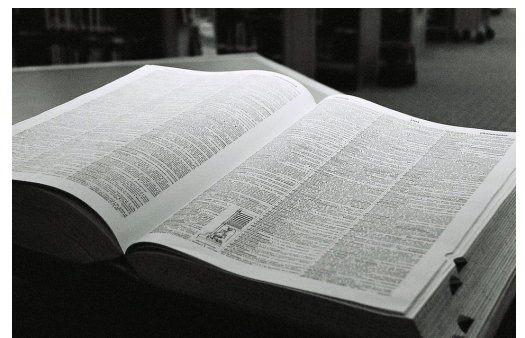
Celtic

Old English  
modern English  
dialects



Chaucer  
Middle English  
Canterbury Tales

dictionary  
to record  
Samuel Johnson



bargaining  
common tongue  
lingua franca

ESL  
EFL  
world Englishes

