

HEINZ 57: THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH

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Part 1

1. Why is English not a pure language according to the lecturer?
2. Who were the original Britons?
3. What example does the lecturer use to indicate the Celts were fierce people?
4. What are the two examples of Celtic words which survive in the English language according to the lecturer?

Part 2

5. Who invaded Celtic Britain in 55 BC?
6. After the Romans were gone, who invaded Britain next?
7. Where did the Celtic people move then?
8. Why does the lecturer say that the history of the English language is the history of invasions?
9. What are the characteristics of the Anglo-Saxon words?

Part 3

10. Who was Saint Augustine? What did he do?
11. Which century did the Vikings invasion begin?
12. What part of the UK did the Vikings land in? Where was the capital?
13. Give two examples of words of Scandinavian origin which the tutor mentioned?

Part 4

14. After the Norman invasion in 1066, which language came to be the language of power?
15. Did William Caxton invent the printing press?
16. Why was the printing press important in the history of English?
17. What happened during the Renaissance period?

Part 5

18. What does 'a two way process' mean in terms of the spread of English?
19. Which language does the word 'bangles' come from?
What are the two examples of Australian English the lecturer mentioned?
20. In what way did the steam engine transform life?
21. During the time of the industrial revolution around how many words were in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED)?

Part 6

22. Is the word 'motel' an American invention or not?
23. There are some words which may look American English but they are in fact British English in origin. What are the two examples of such words?
24. What are the two important inventions which supported the rise of American English?
25. Which language has the most mother tongue speakers?

Part 7

26. According to the lecturer, which language was widely taught when there was the USSR?
27. Did the lecturer say that English became a global language because of politics?
28. According to the lecturer, why is English very hard for young children?

Key

1. Because it has borrowed words from over 350 languages.
2. The Celts.
3. They cut off their heads and stuck them on poles.
4. Ambassador and budget.
5. The Romans under Julius Caesar.
6. The Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes.
7. They moved into Wales, Cornwall, Ireland and Brittany in France.
8. Because every time an invasion occurred, many words from the language of the invaders came into English.

9. They are short words and are to do with the necessities of life
10. He was a Roman missionary. He introduced Christianity to Britain. He also introduced education and literacy.
11. The 8th century.
12. North east coast. The capital was York.
13. Derby, sky, reindeer.
14. French
15. No, he didn't invent it, but he introduced it to Europe.
16. It led to the standardisation of English.
17. People started to go outside the British Isles and discover new things. They started to describe things using words from Latin, Greek and other languages.
18. English was introduced to British colonies all over the world. At the same time, words from other languages came into English.
19. Hindi
Kangaroo, koala, flora, etc.
20. With the steam engine, you have steam to power machines and so you could produce in large quantities.
21. Over 500,000 words.
22. It is an American invention.
23. 'Mad' and 'fall'
24. The creation of e-mail and the internet.
25. Chinese
26. Russian
27. Yes, she said that politics has had some effect on English as a global language.
28. It is difficult because of the spelling system; what it looks like, and how you pronounce it, is very different.