**Topic: On the road**

Subtopic 3: Who invents our language?

Phase 0: MC a

Before we begin this lesson, we will ask you a few questions. This is not a test so don't worry if you make mistakes. During the lesson you will learn the correct answers.

1. Which languages are part of the Germanic language family?
2. Russian, Polish and Slovak.
3. English, Dutch and German.
4. Turkish, Mongolian and Japanese.
5. Spanish, French and Italian.
6. When do new words disappear from a language?
7. When they do not sound good.
8. When they are not used by the speakers of the language.
9. When they mean the same thing as other words.
10. When they are too hard to say.
11. Which statement is correct?
12. A language family is a language that is spoken by one family.
13. A language family is a group of languages that are spoken in the same country.
14. A language family is a family in which everyone can speak lots of languages.
15. A language family is a group of languages that can be traced back to a common language.

Phase 1: Lesson a

If you want to learn how a new language comes into being then you are in the right place!

How does language come into being?

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| --- | --- |
|  | |
|  | Who invented language?  Language is very old. We do not know exactly when language came into being. It is possible that the first people already had a language or that language only came into being later.  Language was not invented by one person in one day. Language was created by lots of people over a long period of time. |
|  | |
| How are new words created?  Words are created when people need them. If new words are useful then they will be used by more and more people. That is how new words are born.  A language is never complete. Things are always being invented that we need words for. Sometimes useless words are also invented. Those words simply disappear.  An example of a useless word in English is the word goggle-box. Do you know what that means? Goggle-box is a word that nobody uses because there is a better word for such a machine. That word is television! | |
|  | |

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|  | |
|  | Who creates those new words?  Some words are made up by scientists or inventors, for example 'internet'. There was no internet in older days so people did not need a word for it. The inventors of the internet made up those words and taught them to other people. |
|  | |
| Scientists and inventors are not the only ones to make up new words. Young people like yourself make the language richer by adding new words, such as ‘CU’ for ‘see you’ and ‘l8r’ for ‘later’. They are not really new words, they are handy abbreviations. Those abbreviations are useful because you can type them faster in an text message or when chatting. |  |



Phase 2: Application a

## Application: Correct or incorrect? Click on true or false for each statement.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | True OR False |
| One person invented the language all on his own but we do not know who that person was.   * This is incorrect. * Als fout: No, this is not correct. Language was invented by lots of people over a long period of time. * Als juist: Good job! This statement is not correct. Language was invented by lots of people over a long period of time. |  |
| New words are only made up by scientists and inventors.   * This is incorrect. * Als fout: No, that’s not correct. Everyone can make up new words. You don't have to be a scientist or inventor. * Als juist: Good job! This statement is not correct. Everyone can make up new words. You don't have to be a scientist or inventor. |  |
| Words that almost nobody uses simply disappear from a language.   * This is correct. * Als fout: This statement is correct. If words are not used, they will automatically disappear from the language. * Als juist: This statement is indeed correct. If words are not used, they will automatically disappear from the language. |  |
| Lots of chatting or SMS language is made up by young people.   * This is correct. * Als fout: This statement is correct. Young people often chat or send text messages and invent much of the SMS language. * Als juist: This statement is indeed correct. Young people often chat or send text messages and invent much of the SMS language. |  |
| Some languages are complete and new words cannot be added.   * This is incorrect. * Als fout: This is incorrect. The world changes every day, so it is important that languages continue to change. * Als juist: This statement is indeed incorrect. The world changes every day, so it is important that languages continue to change. |  |

## Who invents new words?

### Can you make up a word for these new inventions? Write your word next to the invention.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Name of this invention:……………………………………………………. | Name of this invention:……………………………………………………. | Name of this invention:……………………………………………………. |
| With this invention you always have a tissue close at hand. | With this invention you won't get wet when it rains. | This invention helps you if you have an itch in a difficult place. |

Phase 1: Lesson b

Language families

Some languages are similar, others are very different. Why is that?

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| --- |
| What is a language family?  A language family is a group of languages that are similar. That is because they can all be traced back to a common language.  They have words that look or sound like each other, alphabets that are the same, or similar rules of grammar. |
|  |
| How did those language families come into being?  The languages in a language family come from one common language. In the past, all the people who lived in a certain place spoke that language. Some of those people moved to a different place.  So a new group was created, the group of people who moved away. They had very little  contact with the earlier group. They started making up their own words and changing the rules of grammar.  The language changed so much over the years that it became a different language.  A language family is a set of languages that is spoken by all the groups who moved away.  Here is a picture of the spread of the Romance languages.   * The original language was spoken in Italy. * Several groups moved away from Italy. After a while, those groups started speaking a different language. |



Which languages belong to which family?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Germanic language family | English, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, Frisian, etc. |
| Romance language family | French, Spanish, Italian, Catalan, Portuguese, etc. |
| Slavic language family | Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovak, Bulgarian, etc. |
| Altaic language family | Turkish, Mongolian, Japanese, etc. |

Isolated languages

Some languages do not belong to any language family. We call those languages 'isolated languages'. An example of such a language is Basque, which is spoken in northern Spain and in southern France.

Loanwords

Some languages from different language families use the same words.   
Just think of the words hotel, taxi or radio, which are all used in lots of languages.   
That is not because they can all be traced back to a common language but because they have all borrowed the same important international words. Such words are called loanwords.

Phase 2: Application b

What are the four language families that we learned about?

Altaic, Germanic, Slavic, Romance

Drag each of the languages to the correct language family.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ……………………  language family |  | ……………………  language family |  | …………………..  language family |  | …………………….  language family |

These languages are listed below:

* English
* Japanese
* German
* Polish
* Swedish
* Catalan
* Dutch
* French
* Bulgarian
* Spanish
* Italian
* Russian
* Slovak
* Turkish
* Mongolian
* Als juist: Terrific! You've matched all the languages to the correct language family.
* Als fout eerste keer: Well done! Take a good look because some of the languages are in the wrong place.
* Als fout tweede keer: Good try. Have a look at the correct answer.

# Application: How did the Germanic language family spread?

Put the images in the correct order then drag the correct explanation next to them.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (3) | The Germanic protolanguage was spoken in Scandinavia. The other Germanic languages developed from this language. (2) |
| (1) | We do not know for sure if the first people could talk. Language developed gradually. (1) |
| (2) | Because people moved away from Scandinavia, their language changed little by little. After a long time their language had changed so much that new languages existed. (3) |

* Als juist: Well done! You explained the development of the Germanic language family very well!
* Als fout eerste keer: Some items are not in the right order. Try again.
* Als fout tweede keer: Oops, this is not completely correct. Take a good look at the correct answers and you will do better next time!

# Application: Tick the correct box.

Isolated languages are: (Tick one box.)

* Languages that are spoken by very few people.
* Languages that are spoken on an island.
* Languages that do not belong to any language family.
* Als juist: Good job! That is correct!
* Als fout eerste keer: No, that’s not correct. Read the sentences again and try to improve your answer.
* Als fout tweede keer: No, that is not the correct answer. Isolated languages are languages that do not belong to any language family.

Why do different languages sometimes use the same words? (Tick two boxes.)

* Because the languages come from the same language family.
* Because the languages invented the same words by chance.
* Because the languages have borrowed the same important international words.
* Als juist: Yes! That's right.
* Als fout eerste keer: No, that’s not correct. Read the sentences again and try to improve your answer.
* Als fout tweede keer: That's not correct. Take a good look at the right answer.

Phase 1: Lesson c

Sign language There are many different languages, such as Arabic, Dutch or French. You can speak and write those languages.   
Yet you can also say a lot without words!

Is sign language one language or are there different sign languages?

**There are more than 100 different sign languages in the world. Sign language speakers in the United States use a different sign language than those in Asia. But if they make an effort, sign language speakers can understand each other. How? They exaggerate more with their body or facial expressions, or they use signs that are the same in different sign languages.**

**The sign language that is spoken in a country cannot be traced to a spoken language. The Netherlands and Flanders use different sign languages even though only one language is spoken in Flanders and the Netherlands: Dutch.**

Different kinds of language

**Languages exist that are not spoken or written down. They are called sign languages. Sign languages are mainly used by deaf people and their friends and families. Because they cannot hear, they use a language that they can see. We call that language a sign language. You use your ears to hear a spoken language and your voice to speak it. You use your eyes to ‘hear’ sign language and your hands and body to ‘speak’ it.**



What does sign language look like?

**When someone uses a sign language, a few things are important: the position and movement of their hands and the expressions on their face. Children can learn a sign language just like they learn a spoken language. Children that see a sign language from birth onwards will learn that language.**

**A sign language is usually not written down. Most deaf people write in a language that is also spoken, such as English or Slovak.**

This sign means ‘brother’ in American sign language.



**Did you know...**

**… that most deaf children have a mum and dad that can hear?**

**… that you can also whisper in sign language? To do that you bend forwards and do the signs very close to your body so that other people cannot see them.**

**… that deaf people clap differently than hearing people? They wave with two hands in the air. The higher the hands wave, the ‘louder’ the applause.**

Phase 2: Application c

## Application: Everyone can do sign language!

Some signs are used by everyone. Can you translate these signs into English? Drag the right word to each sign.

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|  |  |  |  | **Very good** |
|  |  |  |  | **It's mine** |
|  |  |  |  | **Time** |
|  |  |  |  | **Smile** |
|  |  | Feedback door avatar:   * Als fout eerste keer: Good try but some of the translations are wrong. Try again. * Als fout tweede keer: What a pity. Be sure to look at the correct answer. * Als juist: Good job! You can do sign language without knowing it! |  | **Stand** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## Application: Do you want to learn sign language?

Cut the images into pieces and put the letter next to it. Alphabetical from left to right and from top to bottom

You can also spell words in sign language. There are hand signs for A, B and C. Can you read these words? Write the meaning behind each word.

HELLO (in letter signs) …………………….

RABBIT (in letter signs) ……………………..

BIKE (in letter signs) ……………………..

Phase 3: MC

1. Which languages are part of the Romance language family?
2. English, Dutch and German.
3. Russian, Polish and Slovak.
4. Turkish, Mongolian and Japanese.
5. French, Spanish and Italian.

* Als juist: Correct! French, Spanish and Italian are Romance languages.
* Als fout eerste keer: That is not the correct answer. Try to improve your answer.
* Als fout tweede keer: Oops, that is not correct. The correct answer is French, Spanish and Italian.

1. Which of these statements is incorrect?
2. Different languages borrow the same important international words.
3. Different languages are invented by the same person.
4. Different languages developed from the same protolanguage.
5. Different languages come into contact with each other and borrow rules from each other.

* Als juist: That's right. This sentence is incorrect. No language is invented by only one person. Languages are always created by lots of people over a long period of time.
* Als fout eerste keer: This is not the incorrect sentence. Try again.
* Als fout tweede keer: This sentence is correct. The incorrect sentence is: “Different languages are invented by the same person.”

1. Which statement is correct?
2. All sign language speakers use the same sign language.
3. Languages exist that are not spoken or written down.
4. Every sign language developed from a spoken language.
5. To ‘speak’ sign language you only need your hands.

* Als juist: That's right! Well done!
* Als fout eerste keer: This sentence is incorrect. Read the statements once more and try again.
* Als fout tweede keer: This sentence is incorrect. The correct sentence is 'Languages exist that are not spoken or written down'.