

Market leader upper intermediate english course book Handbook

Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book is a widely recognized and highly effective resource designed to enhance the language skills of learners who are at an upper intermediate level. This course book is part of the renowned Market Leader series, which is tailored to meet the needs of students aiming to improve their English proficiency for academic, professional, or personal purposes. With a focus on real-world language usage, the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book offers a comprehensive and engaging approach to language learning, making it a preferred choice among educators and students worldwide.

Introduction to the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book

The Market Leader series is developed by Oxford University Press in collaboration with the Financial Times, combining language learning with insights into the business world. The Upper Intermediate level (B2 on the CEFR scale) is designed to bridge the gap between intermediate and advanced proficiency, preparing learners for real-life situations such as workplace communication, academic discussions, and social interactions.

This course book emphasizes practical language skills, critical thinking, and cultural awareness, all integrated into a structured curriculum that promotes active learning. Its content is suitable for classroom settings, self-study, or blended learning environments.

Key Features of the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book

The success of this course book lies in its well-rounded features that cater to diverse learning needs. Here are some of its core elements:

1. Authentic Content

- Incorporates real-life business articles, reports, and case studies
- Uses authentic materials from the Financial Times and other credible sources
- Provides learners with exposure to professional vocabulary and discourse

2. Clear Learning Objectives

- Each unit starts with specific goals
- Helps learners track progress and focus on key language areas
- Facilitates targeted practice and assessment

3. Skill Development Focus

- Emphasizes reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills
- Includes tasks designed to improve communication in professional contexts
- Promotes critical thinking and discussion skills

4. Vocabulary and Grammar Practice

- Provides extensive vocabulary exercises tailored to business and general contexts
- Reinforces grammar points with contextualized activities
- Encourages active use of new language structures

5. Exam Preparation and Assessment

- Offers practice tests aligned with international exams (e.g., BEC, IELTS)
- Features review sections for self-assessment
- Prepares learners for certification and real-world language use

Structure of the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book

The course book is organized into thematic units that mirror real-world scenarios. Typical structure includes:

Unit Breakdown

- Introduction: Presents the theme and objectives
- Reading and Listening Activities: Focused on authentic materials
- Language Focus: Grammar and vocabulary exercises
- Communication Skills: Speaking and writing tasks
- Case Studies and Projects: Applied learning through real-life examples
- Review and Practice: Consolidation exercises and quizzes

This structure ensures a balanced approach, integrating listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills within each thematic unit.

Benefits of Using the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book

Using this course book offers numerous advantages for learners and educators alike:

1. Real-World Relevance

- Prepares learners for practical language use in business, academic, and social contexts
- Enhances employability skills by familiarizing learners with professional language

2. Engaging and Interactive Content

- Incorporates multimedia resources, including audio and video materials
- Promotes active participation through discussions, role-plays, and case studies

3. Cultural Awareness

- Introduces learners to cultural nuances and etiquette in English-speaking environments
- Fosters intercultural competence

4. Flexibility and Adaptability

- Suitable for various teaching formats: classroom, online, or blended learning
- Offers supplementary materials for self-study and extension activities

5. Progress Tracking and Certification

- Facilitates monitoring of learner progress
- Supports certification preparation for exams like BEC (Business English Certificates) and IELTS

How to Maximize Learning with the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book

To get the most out of this course book, learners and educators should consider the following strategies:

For Learners:

- Consistently complete all exercises and review errors
- Engage actively in speaking and writing tasks
- Use supplementary resources such as online dictionaries, podcasts, and business news outlets
- Practice real-world language by simulating professional scenarios

For Educators:

- Incorporate additional multimedia resources to diversify lessons
- Encourage group discussions and collaborative projects
- Adapt activities to cater to learners' specific needs and interests
- Provide regular feedback and assessment to guide progression

Comparison with Other Upper Intermediate English Course Books

While there are numerous language learning resources available, the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book stands out due to its focus on:

- Authentic business and professional contexts
- Integration of current events and real-world issues
- Collaboration with the Financial Times, ensuring up-to-date content
- Comprehensive skill development aligned with international standards

Other popular upper intermediate course books, such as English File or New Headway, focus more broadly on general English, but may lack the specialized business content found in Market Leader.

Conclusion: Why Choose the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book?

In summary, the **Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book** offers a dynamic and practical approach to language learning that prepares learners for real-world communication challenges. Its authentic content, structured lessons, and focus on professional skills make it an ideal resource for students aiming to elevate their English proficiency to a higher level. Whether used in classroom settings or for self-study, this course book equips learners with the essential

language tools needed for success in international business, academic pursuits, and everyday interactions.

By investing in this comprehensive resource, learners can confidently progress towards fluency and competence, opening doors to new career opportunities and cultural experiences. For educators, it provides a versatile and engaging curriculum that can be tailored to diverse teaching contexts, ensuring effective language acquisition and learner motivation.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book, business English course, upper intermediate English textbook, professional English learning, authentic business materials, English for professionals, exam preparation, ESL resources, Oxford University Press language books, CEFR B2 English course, comprehensive English course.

Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book: An In-Depth Review

The Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book has established itself as a prominent resource for learners aiming to elevate their English proficiency to an advanced level. Renowned for its comprehensive content, real-world relevance, and pedagogical rigor, this course book caters to both classroom settings and individual learners seeking a structured, effective approach to mastering English. In this detailed review, we will explore every facet of the course book?from its curriculum design and content quality to supplementary materials and pedagogical methodologies?providing a thorough understanding of its strengths and areas for improvement.

Overview and Target Audience

The Market Leader Upper Intermediate course book is primarily aimed at learners whose English skills are at an upper intermediate level (B2 according to the CEFR). It is widely used by adult learners in business, academic, and professional contexts. Its design assumes that students possess a good foundational knowledge of English but need to refine their skills for practical, real-world communication, especially in business and professional environments.

Key features of its target audience include:

- University students preparing for international study
- Professionals seeking to improve workplace communication
- Adults engaging in language courses for career advancement
- Teachers looking for a comprehensive textbook to guide classroom instruction

Curriculum Content and Structure

The Market Leader Upper Intermediate course book is meticulously structured to cover all essential language skills—reading, writing, listening, and speaking—within a coherent framework that emphasizes both language accuracy and fluency.

Modules and Units

Typically, the course comprises 12-14 units, each focusing on different themes relevant to professional and everyday contexts. These themes include:

- Business communication and negotiations
- Socializing and networking
- Marketing and advertising
- International trade and economics
- Workplace issues and management

Each unit follows a consistent format:

- Vocabulary and Grammar Focus: Introducing key terminology and grammatical structures relevant to the unit theme.
- Reading and Listening Exercises: Offering authentic materials like articles, reports, interviews, and audio recordings.
- Language Practice: Controlled and free practice activities to consolidate new language points.
- Communication Skills: Tasks designed to develop speaking and writing abilities, such as role-plays, debates, and email writing.
- Case Studies and Real-world Examples: Incorporating authentic case studies to link language learning with practical applications.

Progression and Skill Development

The curriculum carefully scaffolds learning:

- Starts with familiar, functional language
- Gradually introduces more complex structures and vocabulary
- Emphasizes context-based learning, ensuring students can transfer language skills to real situations
- Provides opportunities for autonomous learning through project work and self-study sections

Content Quality and Relevance

A cornerstone of the Market Leader Upper Intermediate course book is its focus on authentic, up-to-date content.

Authentic Materials

- Incorporates real newspaper articles, business reports, and multimedia resources
- Ensures students engage with language as used in real contexts
- Enhances cultural awareness and global understanding

Relevance to Modern Business and Social Contexts

- Regularly updated editions reflect current trends in business, technology, and international affairs
- Topics are carefully selected to resonate with learners' professional and personal interests
- Promotes critical thinking and discussion on contemporary issues

Pedagogical Approach and Methodology

The course book employs a balanced mix of pedagogical strategies, blending traditional methods with modern communicative techniques.

Communicative Language Teaching

- Prioritizes meaningful interaction over rote memorization
- Encourages pair and group activities to foster real-life communication skills
- Uses role-plays, simulations, and debates to build confidence

Task-Based Learning

- Activities are designed around real-world tasks, such as writing emails, conducting interviews, or presenting reports
- Students learn by doing, which improves retention and practical competence

Focus on Accuracy and Fluency

- Combines exercises that emphasize grammatical correctness with activities that promote natural speech
- Integrates error correction with encouraging, constructive feedback

Practice and Reinforcement

- Regular revision sections help consolidate previous units
- End-of-unit reviews and quizzes assess comprehension and progress

Supplementary Materials and Resources

To enhance learning, the Market Leader Upper Intermediate offers a wide array of supplementary resources:

Teacher's Resources

- Comprehensive teacher's book with lesson plans, answer keys, and additional activities
- Audio and video files for listening and pronunciation practice
- Classroom management tips and assessment tools

Student Resources

- Online practice activities aligned with textbook content
- Vocabulary and grammar flashcards
- Interactive exercises and quizzes for self-assessment

Digital Platforms

- Companion website providing access to downloadable materials
- Mobile applications for on-the-go practice
- Online forums for learner interaction and support

Strengths of the Course Book

- Authentic and Up-to-Date Content: Engages learners with current topics and real-world materials.

- **Balanced Skill Development:** Integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking seamlessly.
- **Practical Focus:** Emphasizes communication skills needed in professional environments.
- **Flexible Use:** Suitable for various teaching contexts, from classrooms to self-study.
- **Comprehensive Support:** Rich supplementary resources aid both teachers and learners.

Areas for Improvement

While the Market Leader Upper Intermediate course book is highly regarded, a few areas could be enhanced:

- **Customization Flexibility:** Offering more modular content to tailor lessons to specific learner needs.
- **Digital Integration:** Expanding interactivity within digital platforms for more engaging online learning.
- **Cultural Diversity:** Incorporating a broader range of cultural perspectives to reflect global business practices.
- **Assessment Tools:** Providing more formative assessment options to track learner progress over time.

Final Verdict

The Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book stands out as a robust, well-structured resource that effectively bridges the gap between intermediate and advanced language proficiency. Its emphasis on authentic materials, practical skills, and real-world relevance makes it an invaluable asset for both learners and teachers committed to achieving high-level English competence.

Whether used in classroom settings or for independent study, it offers a comprehensive pathway to mastering the nuanced language skills necessary for success in international business, academia, or professional communication. While there is room for innovation, particularly in digital interactivity and cultural diversity, the course book's core strengths position it as a market leader in upper intermediate English language education.

In conclusion, if you are seeking a reliable, thorough, and professionally oriented English course book that prepares learners for real-world challenges, the Market Leader Upper Intermediate is undoubtedly a top choice worth considering.

Question What are the main features of the Market Leader Upper Intermediate English Course Book? The course book offers comprehensive lessons on business English, including vocabulary, grammar, listening, speaking, and reading exercises tailored for upper intermediate learners, along with real-world case studies and practical communication skills. **Answer** How does the

Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book enhance business communication skills? It includes role-plays, negotiation exercises, and workplace scenarios that help learners improve their professional communication, presentation, and negotiation abilities in English. Are there online resources available for the Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book? Yes, the course typically comes with online practice activities, audio files, and supplementary materials accessible through the official website or accompanying platforms to reinforce learning. Can the Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book be used for self-study? While designed for classroom use, it can be adapted for self-study with the help of the online resources, answer keys, and supplementary practice materials. What topics are covered in the Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book? Topics include marketing, finance, management, meetings, negotiations, international trade, and corporate culture, reflecting real-world business environments. Is the Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book suitable for professionals aiming to improve their business English? Yes, it is specifically designed for professionals at an upper intermediate level seeking to enhance their business communication and industry-specific vocabulary. How does the Course Book align with current business English standards? It is updated regularly to reflect current trends in global business, incorporating contemporary vocabulary, case studies, and industry practices. Are there assessment tools included in the Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book? Yes, it includes review questions, practice tests, and progress checks to help learners assess their understanding and track their improvement. What age group is the Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book best suited for? It's primarily aimed at adult learners, including university students and working professionals seeking to improve their business English skills. How does the Market Leader Upper Intermediate Course Book compare to other business English courses? It is highly regarded for its practical approach, real-world relevance, and comprehensive coverage, making it a popular choice among learners and educators in the field of business English.

Related keywords: English course, upper intermediate, business English, language learning, ESL textbook, study guide, vocabulary development, communication skills, exam preparation, classroom activities

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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