



ἵπποπόταμος  
WoLLoW the HiPPo

## **The World of Languages and Languages of the World**

# Fantastic French

# Why this lesson?

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- We can explain why we have so much influence from French in the English language.
- We know that French was a very important language in England.
- We can spot links between some modern English and French words.

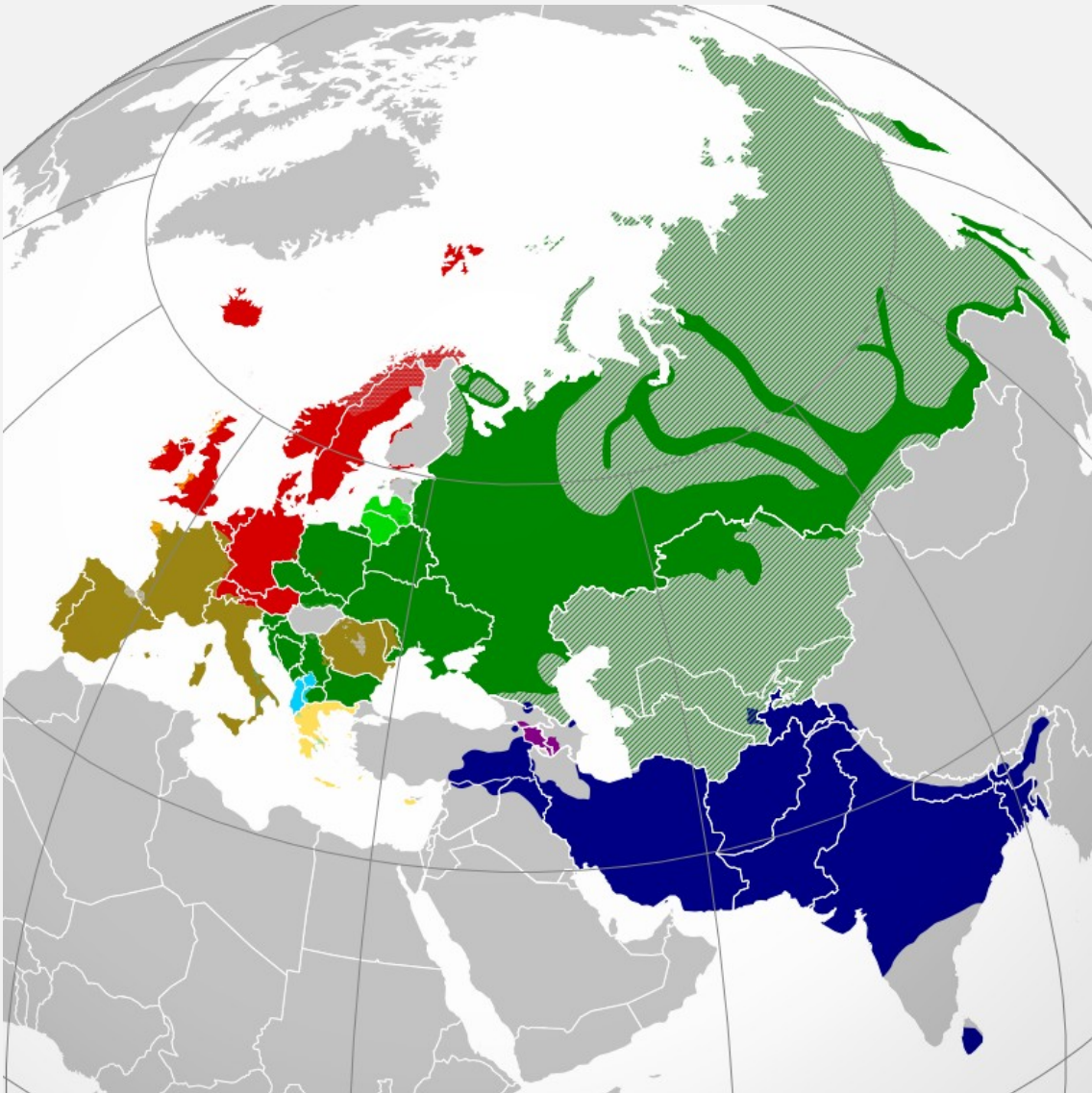


HOW MANY LANGUAGES DO WE HAVE IN THE  
CLASSROOM?

WHY DON'T WE ALL SPEAK ONE  
LANGUAGE?



## PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN



- Maybe once upon a time we did...
- Spoken as a single language from 4500 BC to 2500 BC in what is now modern-day Kazakhstan.
- The most popular descendant languages of PIE are Spanish, English, Portuguese, Hindustani (Hindi and Urdu), Bengali, Russian, Punjabi, German, Persian, French, Marathi, Italian, and Gujarati.
- What does "proto" mean?
- A proto-language is a lost parent language. Other languages are derived from it





# LET'S GO BACK TO LATIN



117 AD

- Latin was spoken throughout the Roman empire.
- Latin gradually developed into a lot of the languages that we know today. E.g. Italian, French, English, Romanian, Spanish & Portuguese.
- In France, the Celtic language (Gaulish) that was spoken by the peasants interacted with Latin which was spoken by the rulers.



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# So, what about English...

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- Well, English has very similar origins to French: it is descended from Proto-Indo-European and Latin.
- During the Roman Empire, England was ruled by the Latin-speaking Romans.
- From 1066 onwards, England was also ruled by French speakers meaning that English was again influenced by French.



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# Who knows what this is?



Hic exeunt caballi de navibus  
Et hic milites festinaverunt

What language is this written in?  
Can you spot the words exit and navigation?



# It's the Bayeux Tapestry

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- It's an 11th century tapestry depicting the conquest of England in 1066 by William, the Duke of Normandy. It's nearly 70 metres long.



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# The Normans conquered England. Then What?

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- The new conquerors (called the Normans) brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the Royal Court, and the ruling and business classes.
- There was a kind of linguistic class division, where the lower classes spoke English and the upper classes spoke French.
- Norman French was spoken in England as an everyday language for several centuries in England, by the Norman descendants but also by native people who worked with the French nobles.
- French words were used and passed down and became part of the English language.
- We still see French influences in our words today.



# Mix and Match

English origin	Norman French origin
pig	mutton
free	beef
name	elope
sheep	liberty
cow	greasy
smell	profound
deep	launch
hurl	odour
run away	pork
fatty	noun



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SEE IF YOU CAN WORK OUT WHAT THE ENGLISH IS...

Latin	French	Italian	Spanish	English
mater	mère	madre	madre	Mother
frater	frère	fratello	hermano (Spanish is a bit different for this one!)	Brother
scholae	école	scuola	escuela	School
cane	chien	cane	cane	Dog
cattus	chat	gatto	gato	Cat



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# WHAT SIMILARITIES CAN WE SPOT FOR EACH WORD?

Latin	French	Italian	Spanish	English
cantare	chanter	cantare	cantar	To sing
lingua	langue	lingua	lenguaje	language
lavare	laver	lavare	lavar	To wash
servire	servir	servire	servir	To serve
pater	père	padre	padre	Father

If the English ones are a little different, can you work out why? Are there any related words that sound like the other lang



## A FINAL THOUGHT...

We have come to the end of this unit on the History of English.

How many influences on the English language can you list?

