



Unit 4 Lesson 5

Indo-European Languages

	Group 1					Group 2			
	Old Norse	German	Afrikaans	Swedish	Norwegian	Croatian	Russian	Ukrainian	Polish
sun	sol	sonne	son	sol	sol	sunce	sohntseh	sohntseh	slonce
death	dod	tod	dood	dod	doden	smrt	smehrt	smehrt	smierc
star	stjarna	stern	ster	stjarna	stjernen	zvijezda	zvezda	zeerkah	gwiazdah
water	vatn	wasser	water	vatten	vann	voda	vody	vody	woda
milk	mjolk	milch	melk	mjolk	melk	mlijeko	mahlakhoh	moloko	mleko
rice	-	reis	rys	ris	ris	riza	rees	ryhs	ryz
wine	win	wein	wyn	vin	vin	wino	veenoh	veenoh	wino
tea	-	tee	tee	te	te	caj	chai	chay	herbata
cheese	ostr	käse	kaas	ost	ost	sir	syhr	syhr	ser
spoon	spann	löffel	lepel	sked	skje	kasika	lozkah	lozkah	lyzka
write	skriv	schreiben	skryf	skriva	skrive	pisati	peesah	peesah	napisac
book	bok	buch	boek	bok	bok	knjiga	kneegah	kneegah	ksiega
cow	kyr	kuh	koei	ko	ku	krava	kahrohva	kohrohva	krowa
run	kjor	laufen	hardloop	springa	lope	trcati	behjaht	beegty	biegac
dog	hundur	hund	hond	hund	hunt	pas	sahbahkah	sohbahkah	pies
apple	eple	apfel	appel	apple	eple	jabuka	yablohko	yahblooko	jabklo
wall	wall	mauer	muur	mur	mur	zid	stehnah	steenah	sciana

	Group 3					Group 4	
	Latin	French	Italian	Spanish	Romanian	Ancient Greek	Modern Greek
sun	sol	soleil	sole	sol	soare	helios	helios
death	mors	mort	morte	muerte	moarte	thanatos	thanatos
star	stella	étoile	stella	estrella	stea	aster	aster
water	aqua	eau	acqua	agua	apa	hudor	hudor
milk	lac	lait	latte	leche	lapte	galactos	gala
rice	oryza	riz	riso	arroz	orez	orydzon	rydzi
wine	vinum	vin	vino	vino	vin	oinos	oinos
tea	-	the	te	te	herbata	-	tsai
cheese	caseus	fromage	fromaggio	queso	branza	turos	turi
spoon	cochlea	cuillère	cucchiaio	cuchara	lingura	torine	koutali



	r						
write	scribo	écrire	scrivere	escribir	scrie	grapho	grapho
book	liber	livre	libro	libro	carte	biblos	biblio
cow	vacca	vache	vacca	vaca	vaca	bous	ageleda
run	currere	courir	correre	correr	lerga	trecho	trecho
dog	canis	chien	cane	perro	caine	kuon	skulos
apple	pomum	pomme	mela	manzana	mar	melon	melo
wall	murus	mur	muro	muro	zid	teichos	teichos

1. Look at the words for sun, star, death, water and milk.

In at least two of the different groups, the words are very similar. Using these similarities between groups, suggest what the root letters of the original Indo European word were.

e.g. Root letters of milk: m-l-k

Root letters of sun:

Root letters of water:

Root letters of death:

Root letters of star:

2. What is it in the meaning of these words which means they are likely to have a common ancestor?

3. Look at the words for “rice” and “wine”. What do these two products have in common which means the word describing them is the same across different groups?

4. Tea is similar to rice and wine but it is not the same across different groups. Read the following excerpt below from, “Tea: The Autobiography” by A.T Bag and answer the questions below.

‘In Mandarin, I am known as ‘cha’. In Fujian province they call me, ‘te’. The Dutch East India Company came to Fujian and took me back to Europe and told people I was called ‘thee’. The Portuguese took me to Europe from a Mandarin port and told their people I was called ‘cha’. I arrived in some European countries by an overland route and they referred to me by my Mandarin name. Other countries already had a name for drinks they put herbs in, so they just called me by that’.

Russian refers to tea as 'chai' because:

English refers to tea as 'tea' because:

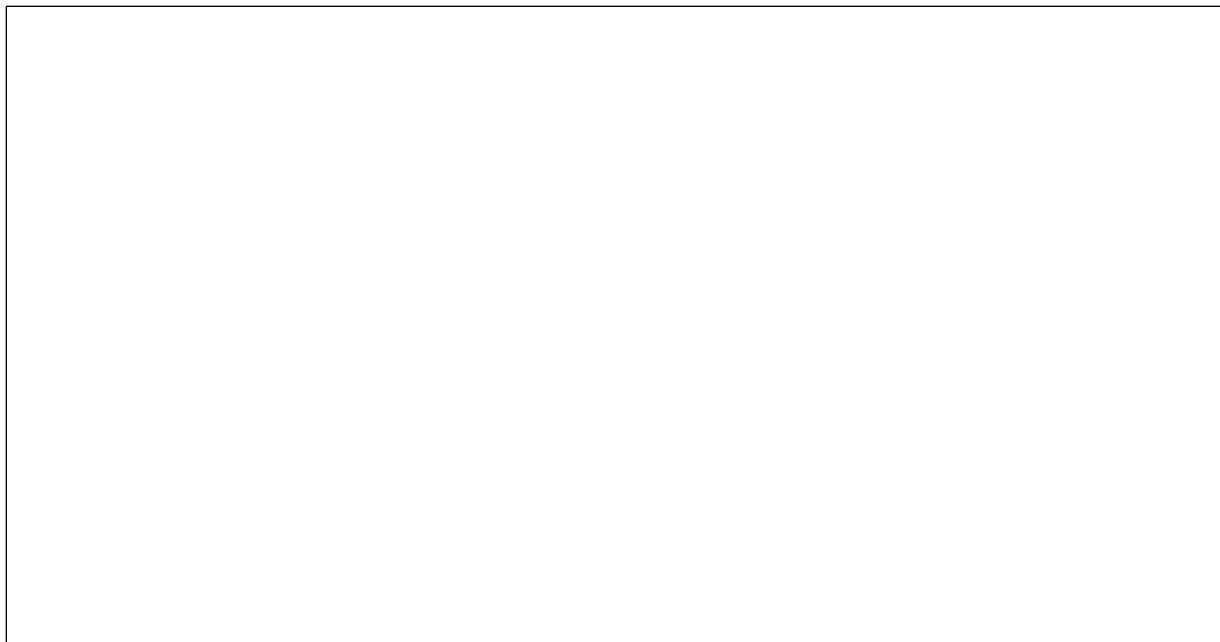
Romanian refers to tea as 'herbata' because:

5. Language groups sometimes 'invent' a 'new' item and because they describe it using existing terms, it takes on a range of names.

Consider the spoon. 'Spann' was a chip of wood in Old Norse, 'sked' is the Swedish for divided and 'cochlea' is the Latin word for a snail.

'lepel' and 'loffel' come from the word meaning, 'drink' or 'lap' which describes what a spoon enables you to do.

Draw a picture of what the spoons that Vikings and Romans used might have looked like.



6. Writing is a fairly modern phenomenon so different language groups described it in different ways. The Slavs called it 'painting' (e.g. 'pisati'), the Romans and the Vikings called it 'scratching' (e.g. 'skriv'), the Greeks called it 'drawing' (e.g. 'grapho'), while the Egyptians called it 'drawing a figure' ('write').

With much writing come books....

The North Europeans called their books, 'bok' after beech wood. The Slavs called their books 'knjiga' after 'symbols' or 'knowledge'. The Romans called their books 'liber' after the inner bark of the tree.

Explain why each of these terms is an appropriate description of a book.

Bok:

Knjiga:

Liber:

7. The Northern Europeans were creative in the way they described running. The English word for running was originally used to describe a river running its course. The Dutch word 'lopen' is where the English word 'elope' and 'leap' come from. **Look at the table to find another vivid term for running North Europeans use.**

8. Sometimes individual languages within a group adopt the word of a language they have contact with.

From what you have heard today, who might have given the Spanish their word for apple?

9. Can you spot a word the Romanians have borrowed from their neighbours the Slavs?

10. Sometimes a language has a completely different word for something.

Apart from the word, 'write', can you find another example where the English word is unlike any other language?