Words we Recognise: Cognates

Today, let's look at cognates and how we recognise words in other languages.

The World of Languages
and Languages of the World

Objectives

- We can understand what a cognate is.
- We can use cognates to help us understand words and sentences in different languages.
- We can see that we can understand more foreign words than we thought: learning a language is easier than we thought.

Let's go!

- Think back to last week. What do these words have in common?

sauna yurt robot

fiesta dungarees croissant

That's right! They all

Today, we're investigating cognates!

A cognate is a word that looks and sounds the same, or similar, in a different language.

The words have the same linguistic roots: they come from the same language family.

a. **What cognates can you think of?**
b. **The French for "house" is *maison*. Can you think of the English cognate for this word?**
c. **What is the difference between a cognate and a loanword?**

- English – House
- German – Haus
- Dutch – Huis
- Danish - Hus

ίπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

Cognates in English

- The English Language as we speak it today is influenced by Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Latin, Viking, Norman French, ancient Greek and the languages of the British Empire.
- This means we can understand words from all over the world even before we start to learn the language.
- Are you ready for a **challenge**?

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY.

ίπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

Can you find the pairs in under 30 seconds?

potato

coliflor

limón

pear

sopa

patata

melón

vanilla

tomato

ensalade

vainilla

brócoli

cauliflower

lemon

soup

tomate

melon

pera

salad

broccoli

What words can you recognise?

Guess what these WWF headlines are about?

- 1. "Um mein Horn zu Asche zu machen, wird meine ganze Art verpulvert"
- 2. Víctima de la superstición: a su cuerno se le suponen "poderes curativos".
- 3. Rhinocéros: Des cornes à prix d'or.
- 4. Rinoceronte: La sua vita non vale un corno!

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-ND.

ίπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

Match the headline to the English translation.

a. Her life is not worth a horn.

b. Horns worth the price of gold.

c. Victim of superstition:
her horn is believed to
have healing powers.

d. To turn my horn into ashes, my whole species will be pulverized.

- **1. "Um mein Horn zu Asche zu machen, wird meine ganze Art verpulvert"**
- **2. Víctima de la superstición: a su cuerno se le suponen "poderes curativos".**
- **3. Rhinocéros: Des cornes à prix d'or.**
- **4. Rinoceronte: La sua vita non vale un corno!**

FRENCH GERMAN ITALIAN SPANISH

1. "Um mein Horn zu Asche zu machen, wird meine ganze Art verpulvert"
2. Víctima de la superstición: a su cuerno se le suponen "poderes curativos".
3. Rhinocéros: Des cornes à prix d'or.
4. Rinoceronte: La sua vita non vale un corno!

Match the headline to the correct language.

How is "horn" translated in the four languages?

In which language is the word for "horn" the same as English?

Which three languages have a similar word for "horn"? Why could this be?

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-NC.

This Photo by Unknown author is licen ιπποπόταμος WoLLoW the HiPPo BY .

Create your own headline

- Create a snappy headline along with a picture based on the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) headlines we have seen.
- Write one in English and one in a language of your choice or a mixture of languages.

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND.

A final thought....

- Not all cognates are as they seem...watch out for **"False Friends".**

- Pain (English)
- Sale (English)
- Gift (English)
- Glass (English)
- Rock (English)
French)

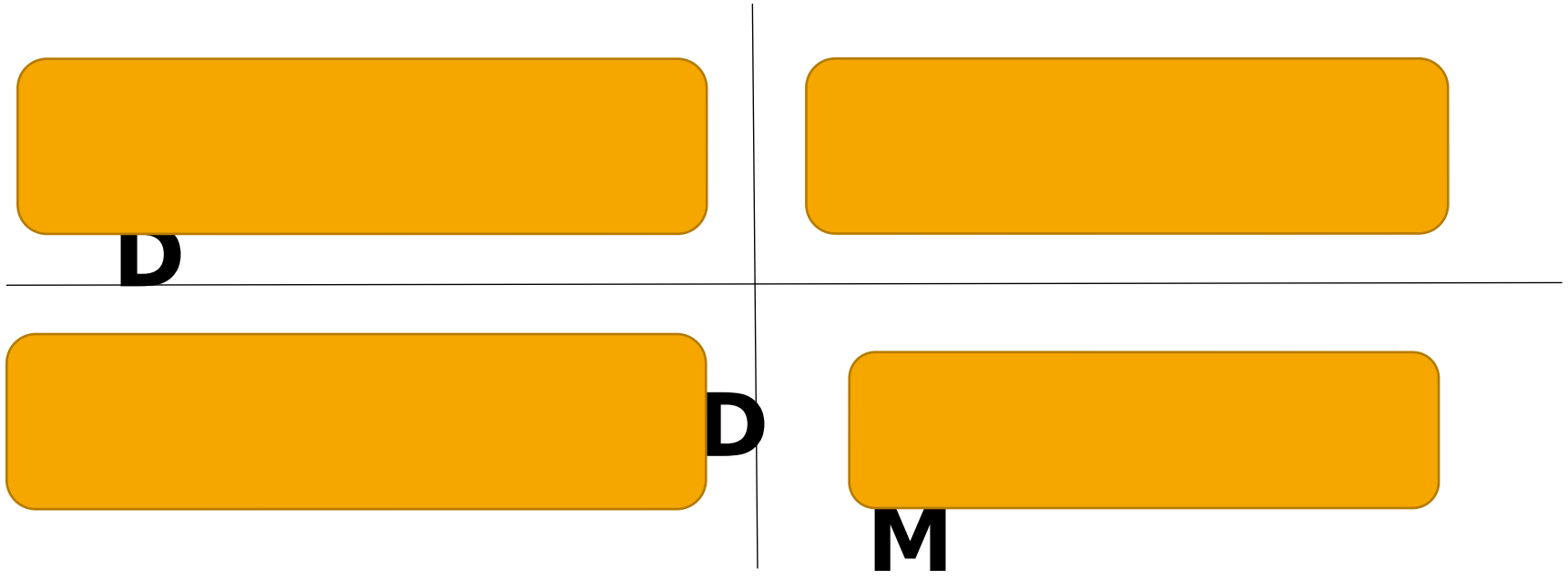
Sale (Fre
t (German)

Glass (S edish)
Rok (Dutch)

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-SA.

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-NC.

This Photo by Unknow author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND.

ιπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the HiPPo

WoLLoW would like to know if you remember what these hidden words mean?