

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2016



Problem 2. How foreign is foreign? (5 marks)

The table shows some words for the numbers from one to ten. Apart from English, the other three languages are all foreign, but they are not all equally different from each other or from English.

English	French	German	Spanish
one	un		
two			dos
three	trois	drei	
four	quatre		
five			cinco
six	six	sechs	
seven			siete
eight		acht	
nine	neuf		
ten			diez

Question 2.1. The missing French, German and Spanish numbers are listed (in alphabetical order) in the box below. Use them to complete the table.

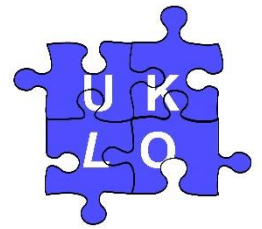
cing, cuatro, deux, dix, ein, fünf, huit, neun, nueve, ocho, seis, sept, sieben, tres, uno, vier, zehn, zwei

Question 2. These four languages are all related to each other (as 'Indo-European languages') but they actually belong to two different families, the 'Germanic' and the 'Romance' (think 'Roman'). Write the names of the languages below in their correct families:

Germanic:		
Romance:		

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2016



Problem 2. How foreign is foreign? (5 marks)

The table shows some words for the numbers from one to ten. Apart from English, the other three languages are all foreign, but they are not all equally different from English.

English	French	German	Spanish
one	un	ein	uno
two	deux	zwei	dos
three	trois	drei	tres
four	quatre	vier	cuatro
five	cinq	fünf	cinco
six	six	sechs	seis
seven	sept	sieben	siete
eight	huit	acht	ocho
nine	neuf	neun	nueve
ten	dix	zehn	diez

Question 2.1. The missing French, German and Spanish numbers are listed (in alphabetical order) in the box below. Use them to complete the table.

cing, cuatro, deux, dix, ein, fünf, huit, neun, nueve, ocho, seis, sept, sieben, tres, uno, vier, zehn, zwei

Question 2. These four languages are all related to each other (as 'Indo-European languages') but they actually belong to two different families, the 'Germanic' and the 'Romance' (think 'Roman'). Write the names of the languages below in their correct families:

Germanic:	German	English
Romance:	French	Spanish

Scoring: one point for each correct word (max 18+4 = 22)

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2016



Comments

Competitors will probably already know these numbers in one foreign language, but probably not in all three, so this problem gives them a chance to stand back and compare languages.

Most of the missing words are fairly obvious even when taken individually, but some of them require a more global analysis. For instance:

1. *Ein* and *uno* are obviously 'one', but which is German and which is Spanish (if you don't know either language at all)? Once you've filled in some of the other examples, you'll notice that it's only in Spanish that words can end in -o, so *uno* must be Spanish. So Spanish is more like French (*uno* – *un*), but English and German aren't particularly like each other.
2. *Deux* and *zwei* are obvious candidates for 'two', but in this case the choice is between French and German. You can build on the Spanish-French link emerging in #1 above:
 - a. Both *deux* and Spanish *duo* begin with *d-*, so maybe *deux* is French. leaving *zwei* for German.
 - b. Confirming this, both *zwei* and *two* contain -w- after z- or t-, so this time English and German are similar.
 - c. Moreover, *zwei* begins with z-, which is also found only in *zehn*, so they belong to the same language: German.
3. And so on.

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2016



Problem 2. How foreign is foreign? (5 marks)

The table shows some words for the numbers from one to ten. Apart from English, the other three languages are all foreign, but they are not all equally different from English.

English	French	German	Spanish
one	un	ein	uno
two	deux	zwei	dos
three	trois	drei	tres
four	quatre	vier	cuatro
five	cinq	fünf	cinco
six	six	sechs	seis
seven	sept	sieben	siete
eight	huit	acht	ocho
nine	neuf	neun	nueve
ten	dix	zehn	diez

Question 2.1. The missing French, German and Spanish numbers are listed (in alphabetical order) in the box below. Use them to complete the table.

cing, cuatro, deux, dix, ein, fünf, huit, neun, nueve, ocho, seis, sept, sieben, tres, uno, vier, zehn, zwei

Question 2. These four languages are all related to each other (as 'Indo-European languages') but they actually belong to two different families, the 'Germanic' and the 'Romance' (think 'Roman'). Write the names of the languages below in their correct families:

Germanic:	German	English
Romance:	French	Spanish

Scoring: one point for each correct word (max 18+4 = 22)

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2016



Comments

Competitors will probably already know these numbers in one foreign language, but probably not in all three, so this problem gives them a chance to stand back and compare languages.

Most of the missing words are fairly obvious even when taken individually, but some of them require a more global analysis. For instance:

4. *Ein* and *uno* are obviously 'one', but which is German and which is Spanish (if you don't know either language at all)? Once you've filled in some of the other examples, you'll notice that it's only in Spanish that words can end in *-o*, so *uno* must be Spanish. So Spanish is more like French (*uno* – *un*), but English and German aren't particularly like each other.
5. *Deux* and *zwei* are obvious candidates for 'two', but in this case the choice is between French and German. You can build on the Spanish-French link emerging in #1 above:
 - a. Both *deux* and Spanish *duo* begin with *d-*, so maybe *deux* is French. leaving *zwei* for German.
 - b. Confirming this, both *zwei* and *two* contain *-w-* after *z-* or *t-*, so this time English and German are similar.
 - c. Moreover, *zwei* begins with *z-*, which is also found only in *zehn*, so they belong to the same language: German.
6. And so on.