

Historical migration of the English language



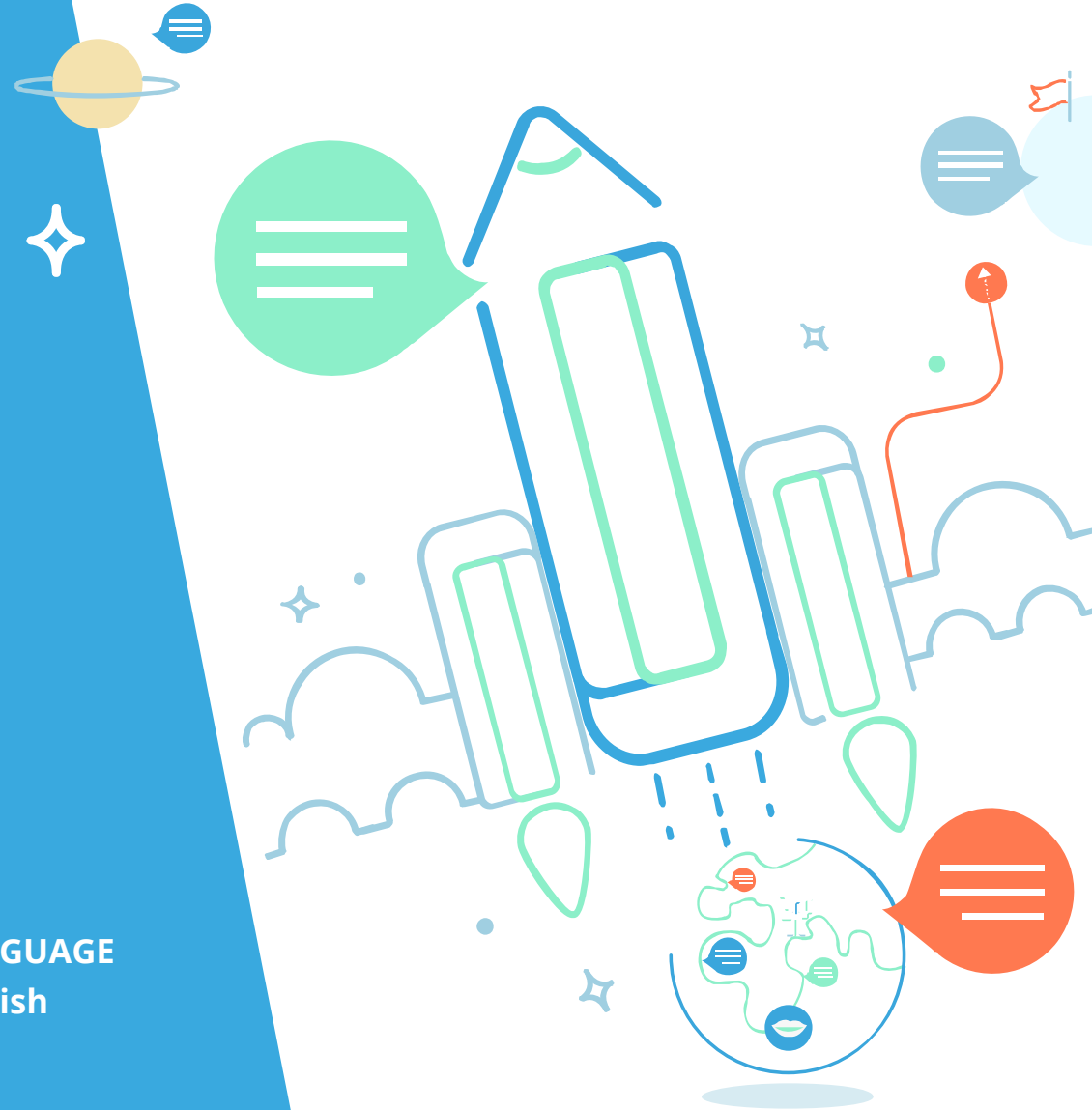
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READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_2015R_EN

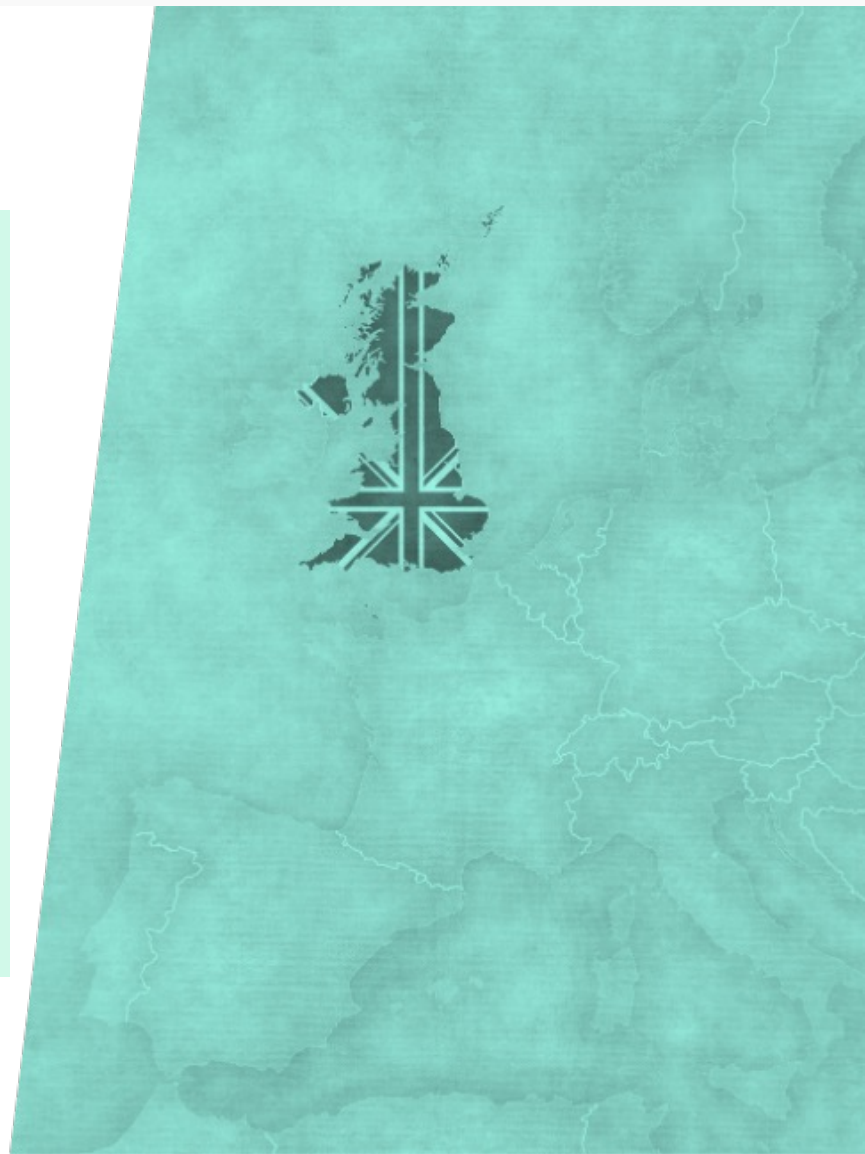
LANGUAGE
English

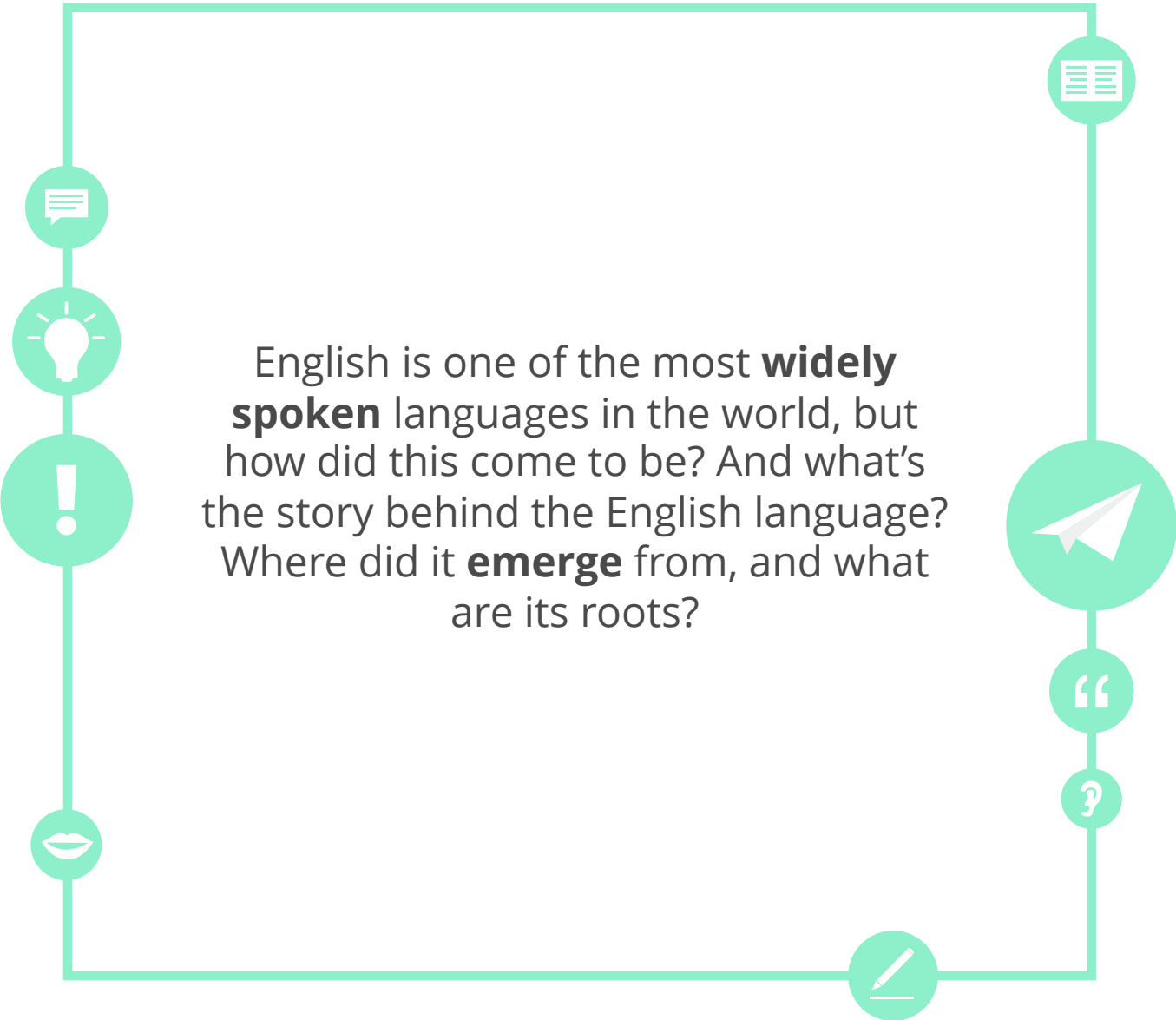




Goals

- Can read and understand a lengthy text about the spread of the English language.
- Can discuss my own ideas on the topics of colonisation and globalisation at length.





English is one of the most **widely spoken** languages in the world, but how did this come to be? And what's the story behind the English language? Where did it **emerge** from, and what are its roots?



Where am I?

Think of an English-speaking country in the world, but don't tell your teacher the name of the country. Your teacher has to guess the country by asking questions. Then swap roles!





Where have you been?

What English speaking countries have you visited before? Which would you most like to visit and why?



What do you know already?



What do you already know about the history of the English language? Do you know anything about the history of your own native language? Tell your teacher!



Historical migration of the English language

Did you know that there are close to 7,000 **living languages** spoken around the world? That's a lot of choice when it comes to picking a language to learn; however, as the international language of business, and one of the world's most **widely spoken** languages, English remains a firm favourite with language learners.

But how did English become the **so-called** global language? 500 years ago, between 5 and 7 million people, mostly living in Britain, were the only individuals to speak this language in the whole world. That's compared with an estimated 1.8 billion English speakers today. So, what exactly was responsible for this **surge** in the use of the English language?



Historical migration of the English language

English is frequently **touted** as a relatively easy language to **grasp**; grammatically speaking, there are no genders to muddle over, and no **horrendously** complicated case system either. English is a member of the Indo-European family of languages but this classification is quite broad – the Indo-European family includes most of the European languages spoken today. However, this family of languages can also be broken down into several different branches. There are two branches in particular that have been of **paramount** importance for the English language: the Germanic branch, of which English is actually a member, and the Romance group of languages.



Vocabulary review

Check these words and phrases from the text with your teacher. Can you use each in a sentence?



to be widely
spoken

so-called

surge

horrendously

to tout

paramount



Why English?

**Why did you decide
to learn English?
What do you like
about the language?
What do you dislike?**



Changes in the world

According to the text, things were very different for the English language 500 years ago. What other things were different in Britain at this time? Tell your teacher what you know about life there 500 years ago, and the changes that have taken place in the country since then.

“

500 years ago between 5 and 7 million people, mostly living in Britain, were the only people to speak this language in the whole world. That's compared with an estimated 1.8 billion English speakers today.

”



Encouraging language learning

Language learning is fun! But not everyone is so enthusiastic about learning a language. Imagine you are a language teacher giving a talk to schoolchildren in an attempt to encourage them to learn a language.

What would you say? Think about what you like about language learning, as well as what the future might hold for these children.



career

travel

self-confidence

challenge



Historical migration of the English language

The history of the English language is **interwoven** with that of politics, and the story of how English became such a dominant world language actually goes back much further than 500 years.

Invasions by the **Vikings**, which began around the year 850, greatly influenced Old English, bringing many North-Germanic words into the language. However, although Great Britain had converted to Christianity in the 7th century, Latin, and the Romance language **branch**, wasn't to have such a strong **impact** upon the English language until the time of the Norman Conquest, some 200 or so years after the Viking invasion.



Historical migration of the English language

During this time **a whole host** of French words with Latin roots got added to the English vocabulary. Did you know, for example, that the French term - déjà vu – literally meaning already seen – is widely understood by English speakers? We use it to **denote** being in a situation or seeing something in particular and having a peculiar feeling of having already seen or known this exact situation or feeling in the past. Even the French word for small – petite – remains a part of today's English vocabulary.



Vocabulary review

Check these words and phrases from the text with your teacher. Can you use each in a sentence with the subjunctive?

dominant

Vikings

impact

denote

a whole host

to be
interwoven

It is important that Vikings be
recognised as the advanced
civilisation they were.



Outside influences

The text talks about the influence that other Germanic languages, and Romance languages had on English.

What about your mother tongue, which other languages is it close to? Can you think of any specific examples of language overlap, like the French examples in English?



Big question

Do you think it's important to know the roots and history of a language you are learning? Why (not)?



Historical migration of the English language

While looking at the history books might help us to understand how English came to be a language, it doesn't answer the question of how English came to be the **prevalent** language of today's world. In fact, a large part of the reason for this is global politics. During the height of the British Empire, English travelled around the world extensively. It was the language spoken by **settlers, traders**, sailors, and even **missionaries**. In this way, English started to grow in importance in parts of the world far from Britain, for example in India and parts of Africa, as well as in North America, Australia and New Zealand. For example, the official language of Nigeria is English! While the days of the British Empire may be long gone, the same cannot be said for the English language.



Historical migration of the English language

Over the past 100 years or so, the growing influence of American culture on the world has cemented English's place as a leading world language. Nowadays, people from every corner of the globe are familiar with the English language thanks to Hollywood movies, or global pop stars. English has also had a big impact on the world of science and technology; in many of these fields, English has become the official language for **terminology** and communication. In general, no matter your field of work, if you want to get ahead, speaking English is a vital skill to have!



Check these words and phrases from the text with your teacher. Try to use each in a question.

prevalent

settler

trader

missionary

branch

terminology



Colonisation

The text speaks about politics and how the British Empire led to the spread of English throughout the world. What do you know about the British Empire? Did your home country also have colonies? What negative consequences could colonisation have had for colonised countries in terms of the effects on their own language and culture?



impose

restrict

freedom

ban



The USA and its influence



American culture has a huge influence globally. Apart from language, what other ways can you think of in which the USA has influenced the world?

What do you know about American culture? What do you like about it? Is there anything you dislike or find hard to understand?



Globalisation

Discuss the quote below with your teacher, exploring both sides of the argument. Talk about language, food, culture and traditions.

Give your opinion too – do you agree or disagree?

“

Globalisation has lead to the death of cultures around the world. It has been a catastrophic disaster for our world.

”



Association game

Think of four different words. Don't show your teacher. For each word you have chosen, write down three more words you associate with that word. They can be synonyms, antonyms, phrases or associated words.

Ask your teacher to do the same. Make sure you don't show one another!

light
bright
dark
electricity



Burning words

light
bright
dark
electricity

Take each word you have chosen from the previous activity and describe it to your teacher without mentioning any of the burning words – the words you wrote down underneath. See if your teacher can guess. Swap roles when you're finished!

Something that enables you to see what you're doing at night.

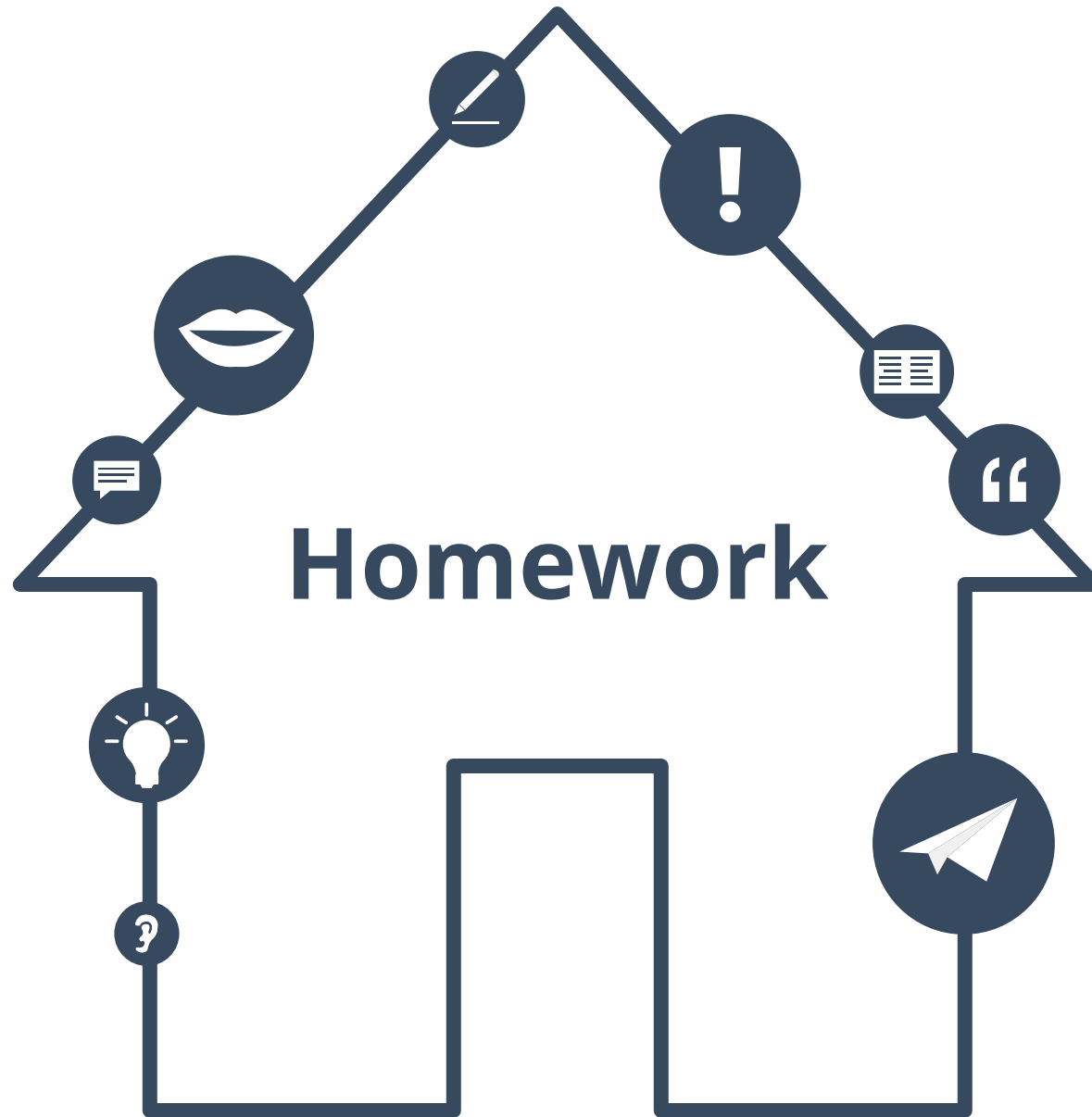


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







What about your language?

In this class we learnt about the historical migration of the English language. Do you know much about the history of your native language? Do some research online and write a short text about your mother tongue, where did it come from, where is it spoken today, is it a difficult language to learn?

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Homework evaluation activity

How did you find this lesson? Which parts of the lesson did you find most challenging and which were easiest?

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing, intended for student notes.



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