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Arbetsblad

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Vocabulary

<i>The following words are specific to the context of the programme. Make sure that you are familiar with them before listening.</i>		
Word	Description	Synonym
migration	here: the process of people travelling to a new place or country, usually in order to find work and live there	exodus; journey
settlement	here: the act of going to live in a new place where few people have lived before	community; establishment
heritage	features belonging to the culture of a particular society, such as traditions, languages, or buildings, that were created in the past and still have historical importance	custom; ancestry
Christmas carol	a song about Christmas or winter, sung at Christmas	song; hymn
genetic testing	testing that identifies DNA and can be used for medical, forensic or ancestry reasons	
rosemaling	a type of painted or carved decoration in Scandinavian traditional style consisting of floral motifs	
pidgin	a language that has developed from a mixture of two or more languages and is used for easy communication	
official language	the language that is approved by the government of a country, taught in schools, and used in legal and official documents	
standard English	the English language in its most widely accepted form, with fixed norms of spelling and grammar and with little dialectal variation	Queen's English; received pronunciation
<i>The following words are general in nature. Take note of these to expand your general vocabulary of the English language.</i>		
hike	a long walk, especially in the countryside	walk; trek
originate	to come from a particular place, time or situation	spring from; derive from
evolve	to develop gradually, or to cause something or someone to develop gradually	develop; progress
tremendous	very great in amount or scale	astounding; awesome
proficient	very skilled and experienced at something	able; skilled
embed	fix something firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass (can be used figuratively as well as literally)	bury; enclose
vocabulary	all the words used by a particular person, or all the words that exist in a particular language or subject	terminology; glossary
skyrocket	to rise extremely quickly or make extremely quick progress towards success	soar; catapult
disreputable	not considered to be respectable in character or appearance	dishonourable; shameful
cranky	easily annoyed or upset	irritable; grumpy
dorky	socially awkward or not fashionable	geeky; nerdy
exploration	the activity of searching and finding out about something	investigation; inspection

Content questions

Great Britain: A concise history of the English language

1. According to Kevin Stroud, the English language did not originate in England. Where did it originate? When and how did it end up in contemporary England?
2. What happened in 1066 and what was a particular consequence of this event?
3. What was starting to happen at around the same time as Shakespeare was writing his famous plays and how did this affect the English language?

The United States of America: Swedish influence persists

4. Approximately what percentage of people in Minnesota have Swedish heritage?
 - a. 1 percent
 - b. 20 percent
 - c. 30 percent
 - d. 10 percent
5. Why do customers sometimes have tears in their eyes when they visit Karen Hanes Turnquist's shop?
6. What are some examples of pieces of Swedish that have been embedded in Minnesotan culture?
7. What does Ingrid Nyholm-Lange mean when she says that some of her Swedish words come from a language that has been "frozen in time"?

Nigeria: Pidgin practice

8. As described in the programme, Pidgin English is a mixture of English and local languages, which allows people who do not share a common language to communicate. How does Preye describe Nigerian Pidgin English? What other language apart from English does Nigerian Pidgin English take inspiration from?

Slang: In constant evolution

9. Where does the word "slang" originate from?
10. What does Anne Curzan require from students before she starts each class on the history of the English language?

Language points

Together with a friend, explain what the following slang expressions mean. If you do not know the meaning of them, try to guess what they mean. Write the meaning of the expression in the right-hand column (or the meaning you think is right). Have you heard these expressions before? Would you or do you use any of them? Tip: Check out the Urban Dictionary (urbandictionary.com) for more slang words.

11	dope	
12	extra	
13	salty	
14	snatched	
15	finsta	
16	no cap	
17	gucci	
18	lit	
19	stan	
20	GOAT	

Discussion points

Lingua Franca reflections:

Throughout this series of Newsreel World episodes, we have heard about English as a Lingua Franca; the English language in many ways facilitates communication between people from all parts of the world allowing people of diverse cultures, religions and societies to come together in a common language. However, some people feel that the expansion of the English language threatens language diversity and jeopardises the existence of smaller languages.

- What are some advantages of using a common language in international politics and in international business? What are some disadvantages?
- Globally more people speak Mandarin or Spanish as their first language rather than English. Why do you think English persists as a lingua franca? Do you think English will still have this status in 20 years? In 50 years? In 100 years? Why or why not?
- Considering the continuous expansion of English as a global language, how can linguistic diversity be safeguarded? Do you think that the use of English in multinational businesses in Sweden is a problem? Do you think that there is a danger of young adults not developing full mastery of the Swedish language due to English language influences? Explain your answers.

Varieties of English:

World Englishes is a concept used for the varieties of English that develop as a result when English comes into contact with local cultures. In this week's episode, you heard about Pidgin English, which is one example of World Englishes. Other examples are Welsh English, Irish English, Chinese English, Indian English and many more. In World Englishes, varieties in the language occur in terms of word choice as well as spelling, pronunciation, sentence structure, accent, and meaning.

- Considering how language is in constant flux and evolves to adapt to developments in culture and society, is it possible to pin down a right and wrong form of English? To what extent can variations of, for example, grammar and sentence structure be accepted before we consider them simply incorrect?
- Sometimes varieties of English are so different that people from various places of the English-speaking world cannot understand each other. Bearing in mind that a common language is the foundation for communication, should there be a cut-off point where a variety of English should not be called English anymore? What standards should such a variety of English be measured against. Who gets to decide when a language is a World English language or simply another language?
- Grammarians sometimes make a distinction between descriptive language (the way people actually speak) and prescriptive language (the way language should be spoken according to, for example, grammar books). In your opinion, is one more correct than the other? Do you think that descriptive language can become prescriptive at some point? What would it take for this to happen?

Teachers' note

Tasks for working with the photo on page 1:

The winter holidays is usually the season on TV for low-budget romantic comedies from the United States.

Imagine that you are a film director and executive producer and the image on page 1 is the poster for your latest production.

- What is the name of your film?
- Tell your peer some important details about the main character in the photo.
- What is the setting and what scene is this?
- Who are the other characters in the film?
- Can you summarise the main plot line?
- How does it all end?
- Will there be a sequel? If yes, what direction will the plot take?

KEY

1. Suggestion: According to Stroud, English originated in the region around modern-day Germany and Scandinavia over 2000 years ago. Around 1500 years ago there was a significant migration of people from that region into Britain.
2. Suggestion: In 1066, England was invaded by the Normans from northern France and for the next 300 years, English borrowed a great deal of words from French.
3. Suggestion: Shakespeare wrote his famous plays in the 1500s at about the same time as English explorers were starting to establish settlements in North America. This was the real start of British colonialization and the real spread of the English language from North America to Australia and New Zealand, India, Africa and many other places across the world.
4. d. 10 percent
5. Suggestion: They come back year after year and get tears in their eyes from the nostalgia of celebrating childhood traditions or remembering visits to Sweden.
6. Suggestion: Swiftly inhaling as a sign of approval or recognition is one feature of Scandinavian language (primarily northern Sweden) that has become embedded and saying “ooo ya” (Oh, ja!) is another.
7. Suggestion: She means that she has picked up Swedish words from her father’s generation and so her language has in a sense been frozen in time, i.e. it has not developed and evolved in the same way as it would have in a geographical place where it is the dominant language for the majority of people.
8. Suggestion: Portuguese is another language which has influenced Nigerian Pidgin English and Preye describes it as a simple way of communicating.
9. Suggestion: The word “slang” originates from the 18th century and refers to words used then for “low” or “disreputable” people.
10. Suggestion: She requires that students teach her two new slang words before she starts class.
11. dope = very good, awesome
12. extra = someone or something is too much, over the top
13. salty = angry, upset, bitter, jealous
14. snatched = looking good, perfect, on point
15. finsta = a secret Instagram account, unknown to parents
16. no cap = for real, no lie, the truth
17. gucci = good, cool, fine
18. lit = intense, fun, exciting
19. stan = an extremely devoted and enthusiastic fan; someone who likes something/someone a great deal
20. GOAT = Greatest Of All Time