

# Language Quiz

- 1 Which six of these languages **does** the UN **use** for official business?
- a English
  - b Russian
  - c Japanese
  - d Spanish
  - e French
  - f Portuguese
  - g German
  - h Chinese
  - i Arabic
  - j Hindi
- 2 At what rate **are** languages **disappearing** around the world?
- a one every two weeks
  - b one every two months
  - c one every two years



- 3 In Britain, which sounds **do** (1) bees and (2) cats **make**?
- a (1) sum and (2) miau
  - b (1) bun and (2) nyan
  - c (1) buzz and (2) miaow
- 4 On which continent **have** languages **developed** clicking sounds as consonants?
- a Asia
  - b South America
  - c Africa



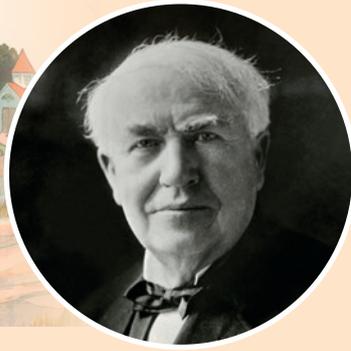


- 5 Where **are** you **standing** if you are using an ATM in Latin?
- a in Vatican City
  - b in the University of Oxford
  - c in Rome city centre



- 6 When **did** people first **begin** to read silently, and not say the words out loud?
- a in 400 BC
  - b in the 1st century AD
  - c in the 10th century AD
- 7 English has taken words from different languages, including gendered nouns (masculine and feminine). Why **didn't** English **keep** the gender?
- a Because English never had gendered nouns.
  - b Because the different languages had a different gender for the same nouns.
  - c Because gendered nouns were difficult to pronounce.





- 8 What **was** Thomas Edison **doing** when he recited the nursery rhyme, 'Mary had a little lamb'?
- a making the first telephone call
  - b making the first sound recording
  - c making the first moving pictures
- 9 The Chicago Tribune newspaper **has** often **tried** to simplify English spelling. Which of these examples **have become** standard American English?
- a bureaucrat and definitely
  - b iland and det
  - c catalog and program
- 10 How long **have** people **been using** the acronym OMG (Oh My God!)?
- a since 1917
  - b since 1985
  - c since text messaging began
- 11 How many new words **are added** to the Oxford English Dictionary every year?
- a 500
  - b 1,000
  - c 3,000
- 12 What language **was** commonly **spoken** by well-educated Ancient Romans?
- a Latin
  - b Greek
  - c Hebrew