

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



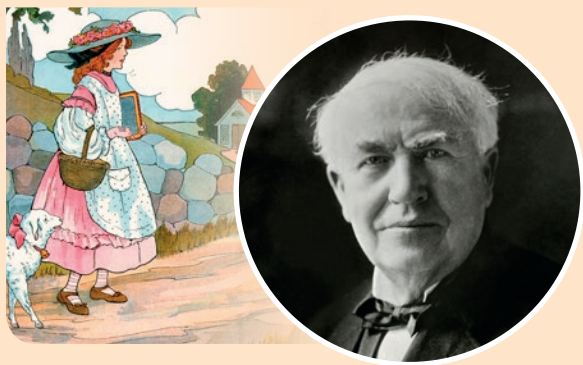


- 5 Where **are** you **standing** if you are using an ATM in Latin?
- a in Vatican City
 - b in the University of Oxford
 - c in Rome city centre



- 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 burocrat 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