

## The History of English

Hi! 😊 I'm  
William  
Shakespeare!



### TRUE / FALSE

1. English is the first language of India. **True / False**
2. French and English borrow many foreign words. **True / False**
3. Saxons spoke a Germanic tongue. **True / False**
4. English has many Latin words and endings. **True / False**
5. The Dutch followed the English to the New World. **True / False**
6. Some Spanish words have been Americanized. **True / False**
7. The “cinch” is the middle of a horse’s body. **True / False**
8. It’s rare to hear foreign words in New York today. **True / False**
9. Frankfurter and Hamburger are now considered English words. **True / False**
10. H. L. Mencken believed that Americans should not accept foreign words into English. **True / False**

### CLOZE

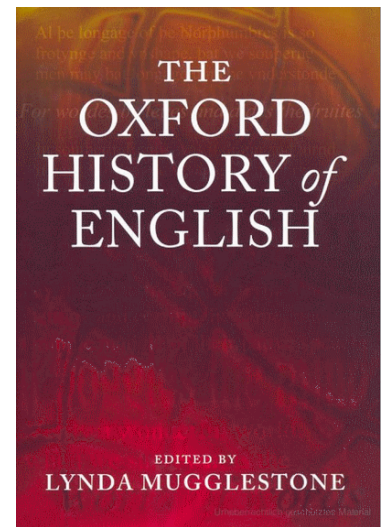
Use the following words in the appropriate blank spaces to complete the paragraph. Read the paragraph before you make your choices.

In contrast 😊 meanings 😊 complained 😊 sentences 😊 difficult 😊 dictionaries 😊 turn 😊 adapting  
newspapers 😊 words 😊 coped with 😊 similar 😊 developing 😊 separate 😊 for example

American English has been \_\_\_\_\_ separately from British English since the 1700s. Some British words changed their \_\_\_\_\_ in America. “Mad,” \_\_\_\_\_, means only “insane” in England, but in the United States, it is commonly used for “angry” as well. According to H. L. Mencken, 18<sup>th</sup> century American English had already become a \_\_\_\_\_ dialect from British English. He predicted that by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, American and British English would be as different as Japanese and Chinese. Some 19<sup>th</sup> century British linguists criticized Americans for accepting so many foreign \_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_ that American English was becoming as strange to the British as ancient Hebrew. They claimed that soon British travelers to the United States would need to carry \_\_\_\_\_ to understand their American cousins.

## Understanding Main Ideas

1. Because of the French conquest of Britain:
  - a. the British started speaking French.
  - b. some French words replaced some Germanic words.
  - c. Latin became the language of both countries
2. The main idea of paragraph 5 is that:
  - a. American colonists adopted Native American words.
  - b. American English separated from British English
  - c. British travelers criticized changes in English
3. The main idea of paragraphs 6 and 7 are that:
  - a. discuss foreign foods popular in the United States.
  - b. show the influence of Spanish on English.
  - c. illustrate the use of foreign words in English.



## Please complete these sentences:

1. The world is now becoming a “global village,” where English:
2. English is an adaptable language because:
3. English has accepted words from such languages as:

**What do you think about the *History of English*?** Please write a paragraph in your own words:

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