

English grammar suitable for levels a1 c1 include Updated Version

english grammar suitable for levels a1 c1 include mastering English grammar across different proficiency levels?from beginner (A1) to advanced (C1)?is essential for effective communication, comprehension, and language mastery. Whether you're just starting your language learning journey or aiming to refine your skills for professional or academic purposes, understanding the grammatical structures appropriate for your level is crucial. This comprehensive guide explores English grammar suitable for levels A1 through C1, providing insights, tips, and key points to help learners progress confidently along their language learning path.

Understanding the CEFR Levels and Their Grammar Needs

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) classifies language proficiency into six levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. Each level corresponds to different grammatical competence.

- A1 (Beginner): Basic sentence structures, simple present tense, common vocabulary.
- A2 (Elementary): Slightly more complex sentences, past tense, basic question forms.
- B1 (Intermediate): Past and future tenses, modal verbs, simple connectors.
- B2 (Upper-Intermediate): More complex sentence structures, conditionals, passive voice.
- C1 (Advanced): Nuanced grammar, complex sentences, subtle differences, idiomatic expressions.
- C2 (Proficiency): Near-native mastery, sophisticated grammar, rare structures.

This article focuses on A1 to C1, providing a step-by-step overview of the grammatical structures appropriate for each level, ensuring learners build a solid foundation and gradually progress to advanced mastery.

English Grammar for Level A1

At the A1 level, learners should focus on understanding and using basic grammatical structures that allow them to introduce themselves, ask simple questions, and describe familiar topics.

Key Grammar Points for A1

- **Simple Present Tense:** Used for routines, facts, and general truths.
- Examples: I am, you are, he/she/it is, we/they are.
- **Subject Pronouns:** I, you, he, she, it, we, they.
- **Basic Vocabulary:** Common nouns, adjectives, and verbs related to daily life.
- **Basic Questions and Negatives:** Using "is/am/are" with question words like "what", "where", "who".
- Examples: What is your name? Are you happy?
- **Articles:** "a", "an", "the" in simple contexts.
- **Prepositions of Place:** in, on, under, next to.
- **Countable and Uncountable Nouns:** some, any.

English Grammar for Level A2

Building on A1, learners expand their grammatical knowledge to describe past events, future intentions, and more detailed descriptions.

Key Grammar Points for A2

- **Past Simple Tense:** Regular and irregular verbs to talk about completed actions.
- Examples: I visited, she watched, they went.
- **Present Continuous Tense:** Describing actions happening now.
- Examples: I am studying, she is working.
- **Future Forms:** "going to" and "will" for intentions and predictions.
- Examples: I am going to travel. It will rain tomorrow.
- **Comparatives and Superlatives:** Describing differences and extremes.
- Examples: bigger, the biggest.
- **Modal Verbs:** can, must, should for ability, obligation, advice.
- **Prepositions of Time and Place:** at, on, in, between.

English Grammar for Level B1

At B1, learners can communicate about familiar topics, past experiences, and future plans with more confidence and accuracy.

Key Grammar Points for B1

- **Present Perfect Tense:** Actions that happened at an unspecified time or that have relevance now.
 - Examples: I have visited Paris. She has finished her homework.
- **Past Continuous Tense:** Describing ongoing past actions.
 - Examples: I was reading when you called.
- **Future Forms:** "will", "be going to", and "present continuous" for future arrangements.
 - Examples: I will call you tomorrow. I am meeting him later.
- **Conditionals:** First conditional for real possibilities.
 - Examples: If it rains, we will stay home.
- **Passive Voice:** Basic understanding and use in simple sentences.
 - Examples: The cake was eaten by John.
- **Reported Speech:** Basic reporting of statements.
 - Examples: She said she was tired.

English Grammar for Level B2

At B2, learners can understand and produce more complex language, including nuanced grammatical structures and varied sentence forms.

Key Grammar Points for B2

- **Advanced Conditionals:** Second and third conditionals for hypothetical situations.
- Examples: If I had studied, I would have passed.
- **Mixed Conditionals:** Combining different conditional types.
- **Modal Verbs for Deduction and Obligation:** must, can't, should have.
- Examples: He must be at home. You should have called.
- **Relative Clauses:** Who, which, that for describing nouns.
- Examples: The book that I bought is interesting.
- **Passive Voice in Different Tenses:** Present, past, future.
- **Subjunctive and Modal Verbs in Formal Contexts.**

English Grammar for Level C1

At C1, learners are capable of understanding and producing sophisticated, nuanced language suitable for academic, professional, and complex communicative contexts.

Key Grammar Points for C1

- **Complex Sentence Structures:** Use of relative clauses, participial phrases, and inversion.
- **Advanced Modals and Modal Perfects:** might have, could have, should have, must have, to express deduction, speculation, and regret.
- **Inversion and Emphasis:** To add emphasis or form more formal statements.
- Examples: Never have I seen such a thing.
- **Nuanced Use of Conditionals:** Zero, first, second, third, and mixed conditionals, with subtle differences.
- **Discourse Markers and Cohesion Devices:** Furthermore, however, in contrast, despite, although.
- **Subjunctive Mood and Formal Structures.**
- **Use of Passive Voice in Formal and Academic Texts.**

Tips for Learning and Improving English Grammar at All Levels

Achieving proficiency in English grammar requires consistent practice and strategic learning. Here

are some essential tips:

- **Practice Regularly:** Engage in daily exercises, writing, and speaking practice.
- **Use Authentic Materials:** Read books, articles, and listen to podcasts suitable for your level.
- **Learn in Context:** Focus on how grammar is used in real-life communication rather than isolated rules.

English Grammar Suitable for Levels A1 to C1: An In-depth Review

English grammar forms the foundation of language mastery, enabling learners to communicate effectively across diverse contexts. From the basic sentence structures mastered at A1 to the nuanced complexities navigated at C1, understanding the progression and scope of English grammar is essential for educators, learners, and language enthusiasts alike. This comprehensive review explores the evolution, key features, pedagogical approaches, and challenges associated with teaching and learning English grammar suitable for levels A1 through C1.

Introduction: The Spectrum of English Grammar Proficiency

Language acquisition is a staged process. The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) delineates six levels?A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2?each representing increasing proficiency. Grammar, as a core component, evolves correspondingly. For beginners (A1), grammar introduces basic structures, while advanced learners (C1) engage with complex syntax, idiomatic expressions, and stylistic variations.

Understanding what grammar entails at each level informs curriculum design, resource development, and learner self-assessment. The journey from simple present tense to sophisticated grammatical constructs is both challenging and rewarding, reflecting the learner?s growing command over the language.

Foundations of English Grammar at A1 and A2

Core Features for Beginners

At the A1 level, learners focus on fundamental grammatical concepts that enable basic communication. These include:

- Simple Present Tense: Used for routines and facts (e.g., "I eat breakfast at 7 am.")
- Subject Pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
- Basic Vocabulary and Sentence Structure: Subject + Verb (+ Object)

- Present Continuous Tense: For actions happening now (e.g., "I am studying.")
- Articles: a, an, the
- Countable and Uncountable Nouns
- Prepositions of Place and Time: in, on, at, before, after

Learners at this stage build confidence through repetitive exercises, visual aids, and contextual learning.

Expanding Complexity at A2

A2 introduces slight complexity, such as:

- Past Simple Tense: (e.g., "I visited my grandmother.")
- Adjectives and Adverbs: Descriptive language
- Questions and Negatives: Using do/does/did
- Modal Verbs for Ability and Permission: can, could, may
- Basic conjunctions: and, but, because

This phase emphasizes understanding and producing simple texts, dialogues, and descriptions.

Transitioning to Intermediate: B1 and B2 Grammar Features

Intermediate Proficiency (B1)

At B1, learners begin to handle more varied and complex grammatical structures:

- Present Perfect Tense: (e.g., "I have seen that movie.")
- Future Forms: will, going to, present continuous for future arrangements
- Conditionals: first conditional ("If it rains, we will stay inside.")
- Relative Clauses: who, which, that
- Passive Voice: (e.g., "The cake was eaten by the children.")
- Reported Speech: (e.g., "He said he was tired.")

B1 learners start to engage with authentic materials, expressing opinions, and narrating past experiences, requiring a broader grammatical toolkit.

Advancing to B2

B2 introduces further sophistication:

- Mixed Conditionals and Advanced Modal Usage: should have, might have
- Subjunctive Mood: formal wishes and hypotheticals
- Complex Sentences: with subordinate clauses
- Inversion for Emphasis and Formality
- Nuanced Use of Tenses: the difference between present perfect and simple past
- Discourse Markers and Connectors: furthermore, however, nevertheless

Mastery at this level involves not only correct grammatical usage but also stylistic appropriate choices suited for academic and professional contexts.

Advanced Grammar: C1 and C2 Levels

Characteristics of C1 Proficiency

At C1, learners are expected to comprehend and produce intricate grammatical structures with fluency and accuracy:

- Advanced Tense and Aspect Usage: perfect continuous, future perfect
- In-depth Use of Modality: should have, must have, might have
- Subtle Nuances in Meaning: using different tenses and moods to convey shades of meaning
- Complex Sentence Constructions: multiple subordinate clauses, noun phrases
- Discourse Cohesion: cohesive devices, referencing, ellipsis
- Stylistic and Formal Variations: passive voice in formal contexts, inversion for emphasis

C1 learners can read and produce sophisticated texts, including academic articles, literary analysis, and professional reports.

Mastery at C2

C2 represents near-native proficiency. Grammar at this level involves:

- Mastery of all grammatical structures with minimal errors
- Usage of idiomatic expressions, colloquialisms, and stylistic devices
- Flexible manipulation of sentence structures for effect
- Deep understanding of register and tone
- Handling of complex syntactical structures, including embedded clauses and nuanced modality

While less about learning new structures, C2 proficiency emphasizes precision, stylistic appropriateness, and adaptability.

Pedagogical Approaches Across Levels

Effective teaching of English grammar suited for A1 to C1 involves tailored strategies:

- A1?A2: Focus on repetitive practice, visual aids, and functional language use
- B1?B2: Introduce authentic materials, context-based exercises, and focus on communicative competence
- C1?C2: Emphasize stylistic variation, error correction, and nuanced understanding through advanced texts, debates, and writing tasks

Incorporating technology, such as interactive grammar exercises and corpus-based learning, enhances engagement and mastery.

Common Challenges and Misconceptions

Despite structured progression, learners face several challenges:

- Overgeneralization: applying rules too broadly (e.g., "goed" instead of "went")
- Tense Confusion: improper use of perfect and continuous aspects
- Preposition Errors: especially with idiomatic expressions
- Passive Voice Complexity: overuse or incorrect formation
- Stylistic Mistakes: in advanced writing, such as incorrect register or tone

Addressing misconceptions requires explicit instruction, feedback, and exposure to varied contexts.

Conclusion: The Dynamic Nature of English Grammar Learning

English grammar development from A1 to C1 is a dynamic, layered process that reflects the learner's cognitive and communicative growth. While foundational structures provide essential tools for basic interaction, mastery of advanced grammar enables nuanced, sophisticated expression. Recognizing the specific features and challenges at each level informs better instructional design, resource creation, and self-directed learning.

Ultimately, the journey through English grammar is not linear but cyclical, as learners revisit and refine structures in varied contexts. Continuous exposure, practice, and feedback are vital for progressing through levels, culminating in near-native fluency at the C2 level.

This comprehensive understanding of English grammar suitable for levels A1 to C1 underscores the importance of tailored pedagogical strategies and learner-centered approaches. As language users

evolve, so too must the methods to teach and learn the intricate rules that make English a globally dominant language.

End of Article

QuestionAnswer What is the basic word order in English sentences? The basic word order in English is Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), for example: 'She (subject) eats (verb) an apple (object).' This order is fundamental across all levels from A1 to C1. How do I form the present simple tense for different subjects? For subjects 'I', 'you', 'we', 'they', use the base form of the verb (e.g., 'run'). For 'he', 'she', 'it', add an 's' or 'es' (e.g., 'runs', 'goes'). What are common adjectives used to describe people and objects? Common adjectives include 'happy', 'sad', 'big', 'small', 'beautiful', 'old', 'new', 'interesting'. They help add more detail to nouns, suitable for all levels. How do I correctly use comparatives and superlatives? Use comparatives (e.g., 'bigger', 'more interesting') to compare two things, and superlatives (e.g., 'biggest', 'most interesting') to compare three or more. For example: 'This car is faster than that one.' / 'This is the fastest car.' What is the difference between 'there is' and 'there are'? 'There is' is used with singular nouns or uncountable nouns, e.g., 'There is a book.' 'There are' is used with plural nouns, e.g., 'There are many books.' How can I improve my understanding of complex sentence structures at C1 level? Practice combining ideas using conjunctions and relative clauses, such as 'because', 'although', 'which', and 'whose'. Reading advanced texts and analyzing sentence structures also helps improve comprehension and usage.

Related keywords: English grammar, A1 level, C1 level, language proficiency, grammar rules, beginner to advanced, language learning, grammatical structures, English syntax, vocabulary development

an introduction to english language

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes—Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450–1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.
- **Middle English (c. 1150–1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.
- **Early Modern English (c. 1500–1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.
- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to William Shakespeare's plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language's development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from

150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages
- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages
- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard
- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world's primary lingua franca—an auxiliary language used for international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms

- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English
- Learn English online
- English language development

- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes—namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450–1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like *Beowulf*.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150–1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar, making literature more accessible.
- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.
- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.
- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation

- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation
- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)
- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English's structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English's significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today's interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

Question What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. **Answer** How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the

Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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