

English 2 Released Form Nc Manual

english 2 released form nc has been a significant milestone for students and educators in North Carolina. This release marks a crucial step in the state's efforts to enhance language arts education, providing students with a comprehensive pathway to develop their English skills, critical thinking, and literacy. As students prepare for their academic journeys, understanding the nuances of the English 2 course, its curriculum, assessment methods, and how it aligns with state standards is essential. This article offers an in-depth exploration of the English 2 released form in North Carolina, its features, benefits, and how it supports student success.

Understanding the English 2 Course in North Carolina

What is English 2?

English 2 is a core high school course designed to advance students' proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It emphasizes critical analysis of texts, effective communication, and the development of a well-rounded understanding of literature and language. The course typically builds on foundational skills acquired in earlier grades and prepares students for college, careers, and responsible citizenship.

Why is the Release of the English 2 Form Important?

The release of the official English 2 form by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) provides educators, students, and parents with a clear framework for what to expect from the course. It includes sample questions, assessment criteria, and standards that align with the state's educational goals. This transparency aims to improve instructional quality and student performance.

Features of the English 2 Released Form in North Carolina

1. Standardized Assessment Items

The released form contains sample questions mirroring the types of assessments students will encounter. These items are designed to evaluate:

- Reading comprehension
- Analytical writing
- Literary analysis

- Vocabulary and language skills

2. Alignment with State Standards

The form aligns with North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) for English Language Arts. It ensures that instructional content and assessments reflect the skills and knowledge students are expected to acquire.

3. Practice Tests and Sample Questions

Students and teachers benefit from practice exams included in the released form. These resources help:

- Familiarize students with test formats
- Identify areas needing improvement
- Enhance test-taking strategies

4. Clear Scoring Guidelines

The form provides rubrics and scoring criteria to clarify how responses will be evaluated. This transparency helps students understand expectations and teachers design instruction accordingly.

Benefits of the English 2 Released Form for Stakeholders

For Students

- Enhanced Preparation: Practice questions and sample tests improve confidence and readiness.
- Skill Development: Focused practice targets critical reading, writing, and analytical skills.
- Understanding Expectations: Clear assessment criteria help students understand how their work will be evaluated.

For Teachers

- Curriculum Alignment: Ensures teaching practices align with assessment standards.
- Instructional Planning: Provides resources to tailor lessons effectively.
- Assessment Familiarity: Helps develop formative and summative assessments aligned with state standards.

For Parents

- Monitoring Progress: Parents can better understand what their children are learning and how they are assessed.
- Supporting Learning: Resources from the released form enable targeted support at home.
- Advocacy: Knowledge of standards and assessments empowers parents to advocate for quality education.

How to Access and Use the English 2 Released Form in North Carolina

Steps to Access the Released Form

- Visit the official North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website.
- Navigate to the 'Assessments' or 'English Language Arts' section.
- Download the English 2 released form PDF or access interactive resources.
- Review the sample questions, scoring guides, and instructional resources provided.

Effective Strategies for Utilizing the Form

- Practice Regularly: Use sample questions to simulate test conditions.
- Identify Weaknesses: Focus on areas where students struggle most.
- Incorporate into Lesson Plans: Align classroom activities with the standards and question types.
- Use as a Feedback Tool: Regularly assess progress and adjust instruction accordingly.

Future Developments and Updates for English 2 Assessments

Continuous Improvement Based on Feedback

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction continually reviews assessment data and stakeholder feedback to refine the released forms. This iterative process aims to:

- Improve question clarity
- Better assess higher-order thinking skills
- Incorporate diverse literary texts and contemporary topics

Integration of Technology

Upcoming versions of the English 2 assessment are expected to include:

- Digital testing options
- Interactive question formats
- Enhanced accessibility features

Alignment with College and Career Readiness Standards

The assessments are increasingly aligned with college readiness benchmarks, emphasizing critical thinking, argumentation, and effective communication.

Preparing for the English 2 Assessment in North Carolina

Key Areas to Focus On

- Reading Comprehension: Analyzing fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama.
- Writing Skills: Crafting essays, argumentative papers, and literary analyses.
- Vocabulary and Language Usage: Understanding context, connotations, and grammar.
- Listening and Speaking: Participating in discussions and delivering presentations.

Study Tips for Students

- Review the sample questions in the released form regularly.
- Practice writing essays based on prompts similar to those in the form.
- Read a variety of literary texts to build familiarity with different genres.
- Engage in class discussions to improve speaking and listening skills.
- Seek feedback from teachers on practice essays and assignments.

Resources Available to Students and Educators

- Official released forms and practice tests from NCDPI.
- Online tutorials and instructional videos.
- Study guides aligned with the North Carolina standards.
- Tutoring and after-school programs focusing on English skills.

Conclusion

The **English 2 released form in North Carolina** represents a valuable tool for enhancing educational outcomes for high school students. By providing transparent, standardized practice resources, it helps students develop critical skills in reading, writing, and analysis essential for success beyond high school. Educators leverage these resources to craft targeted lessons, while parents can support their children's learning at home. As North Carolina continues to refine its assessment strategies, the English 2 released form remains a cornerstone in fostering literacy and academic excellence. Staying informed and actively utilizing these resources will ensure students are well-prepared to excel in their English assessments and future academic pursuits.

Keywords: English 2 released form NC, North Carolina English assessment, NC English 2 practice test, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, English 2 standards, high school English NC, English 2 sample questions, English assessment resources NC, literacy education North Carolina, college readiness NC

English 2 Released from NC has generated significant buzz among educators, students, and academic institutions across North Carolina and beyond. As a crucial component of the state's educational standards and testing frameworks, the release of the new English 2 curriculum aims to enhance literacy, critical thinking, and literary analysis skills among high school students. This comprehensive review explores the key features, strengths, challenges, and implications of the newly released English 2 standards from North Carolina, providing a detailed analysis to inform educators, parents, and students alike.

Overview of the English 2 Curriculum from North Carolina

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) introduced the revamped English 2 curriculum to align with evolving educational standards and to better prepare students for college, careers, and civic engagement. The curriculum emphasizes not only traditional literary analysis but also integrates contemporary skills such as digital literacy, argumentative writing, and cross-disciplinary connections.

The core goal is to foster a nuanced understanding of diverse texts, develop students' analytical and interpretative skills, and promote effective communication. The curriculum is designed to be flexible, allowing teachers to adapt lessons to their students' needs while maintaining consistent learning outcomes.

Key Features of the New English 2 Standards

1. Emphasis on Diverse Texts and Perspectives

One of the standout features of the new English 2 curriculum is its focus on inclusivity and diversity. Students are exposed to a broad spectrum of literature, ranging from classic American and British

texts to contemporary works from diverse authors and voices.

- Features:
- Inclusion of texts by authors of different cultural backgrounds
- Exploration of themes related to identity, social justice, and global issues
- Use of multimedia sources, including podcasts, videos, and digital articles

2. Focus on Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills

The curriculum encourages students to go beyond surface-level understanding, prompting them to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information across different texts and media.

- Features:
- Analytical essays and research projects
- Socratic seminars and peer discussions
- Use of graphic organizers to map literary themes and arguments

3. Integration of Digital Literacy

Recognizing the importance of digital skills in today's world, the curriculum integrates instruction on evaluating online sources, understanding media bias, and creating digital content.

- Features:
- Assignments requiring digital presentations
- Lessons on identifying credible sources
- Training in digital collaboration tools

4. Emphasis on Writing Skills

Writing remains a central component, with a focus on argumentative, explanatory, and narrative writing. Students are encouraged to craft well-structured, persuasive essays that demonstrate clarity and depth.

- Features:
- Scaffolded writing assignments
- Emphasis on thesis development and evidence-based arguments
- Opportunities for peer review and revision

5. Alignment with College and Career Readiness

The standards are designed to prepare students for success beyond high school, emphasizing skills such as research proficiency, effective communication, and adaptability to various formats and audiences.

Strengths of the New English 2 Curriculum

Enhanced Diversity and Inclusivity

The curriculum's broadened scope of texts ensures that students see themselves reflected in literature and are exposed to global perspectives. This fosters a more inclusive classroom environment and promotes cultural awareness.

Development of Higher-Order Thinking Skills

By prioritizing analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, the curriculum pushes students to develop critical thinking skills essential for college and careers. The use of varied assessment methods caters to different learning styles.

Integration of 21st Century Skills

Incorporating digital literacy and media analysis prepares students for the modern information landscape. This aligns with broader educational trends emphasizing technology fluency.

Support for Differentiated Instruction

The curriculum's flexibility allows teachers to tailor lessons based on student needs, accommodating diverse learning paces and styles, which can lead to better engagement and outcomes.

Alignment with State and National Standards

The updated standards are designed to meet or exceed national benchmarks, ensuring that North Carolina students remain competitive academically.

Challenges and Criticisms of the New Curriculum

Implementation and Teacher Training

- Challenge: Transitioning to the new standards requires extensive professional development. Some teachers may feel unprepared or overwhelmed.
- Potential Solution: Ongoing training sessions, resource sharing, and collaborative planning can mitigate this issue.

Resource Availability

- Challenge: Schools with limited funding might struggle to access necessary materials, technology, or supplementary texts.
- Potential Solution: State support programs and grants could help bridge these gaps.

Assessment Alignment and Standardization

- Challenge: Ensuring that assessments accurately measure the curriculum's expanded skills and diverse content can be complex.
- Potential Solution: Developing comprehensive rubrics and pilot testing assessments can improve alignment.

Risk of Overloading Students and Teachers

- Challenge: The curriculum's breadth might lead to curricular overload, reducing time for depth of discussion.
- Potential Solution: Prioritizing core texts and skills, and integrating interdisciplinary approaches, can balance depth and breadth.

Resistance to Change

- Challenge: Some stakeholders may prefer traditional curricula and resist shifts toward more inclusive and skill-based standards.
- Potential Solution: Clear communication of benefits and evidence-based outcomes can foster buy-in.

Implications for Students, Teachers, and Schools

For Students

The new curriculum aims to produce more critically literate, culturally aware, and digitally competent

students. However, adapting to these changes requires effort and engagement. Students may find the diverse texts and analytical tasks more challenging initially but will benefit from a richer learning experience.

For Teachers

Educators are encouraged to embrace professional development opportunities to effectively deliver the standards. Collaboration among teachers can facilitate sharing best practices and resources. Teachers also need to balance covering the curriculum with fostering meaningful discussions.

For Schools and Districts

School administrators should prioritize resource allocation, provide ongoing training, and support curriculum integration. Monitoring and assessment strategies should be aligned with the new standards to ensure consistent implementation.

Future Outlook and Recommendations

The release of the English 2 curriculum from North Carolina marks a progressive step toward modernizing high school English education. To maximize its effectiveness, stakeholders should consider the following:

- Continuous Professional Development: Regular training sessions to keep teachers updated on best practices.
- Resource Investment: Ensuring all schools have access to diverse texts, technology, and assessment tools.
- Community Engagement: Involving parents and community members in understanding curriculum changes and goals.
- Assessment and Feedback: Implementing formative assessments to monitor student progress and adjusting instruction accordingly.
- Focus on Equity: Providing additional support to underserved students to ensure equitable access and success.

Conclusion

Overall, the English 2 Released from NC represents a thoughtful, comprehensive effort to modernize high school English education in North Carolina. Its focus on diversity, critical thinking, digital literacy, and college/career readiness aligns well with the demands of the 21st century. While challenges remain in implementation and resource allocation, the curriculum's strengths lay a solid foundation for fostering engaged, skilled, and culturally aware learners. Continued collaboration

among educators, policymakers, students, and communities will be essential to realize its full potential and ensure that North Carolina's students are well-equipped for the future.

Question What is the 'English 2' released form in North Carolina's education system? The 'English 2' released form in North Carolina is a standardized exam or assessment used to evaluate students' proficiency in English language skills as part of the state's curriculum requirements. When was the latest 'English 2' released form made available to students in North Carolina? The latest 'English 2' released form was made available in the current academic year, typically released early in the semester to assess student progress and prepare for statewide testing schedules. How can teachers access the 'English 2' released form for instructional purposes? Teachers can access the 'English 2' released form through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's official website or designated testing portals, often available to educators for review and practice. What are the main components included in the 'English 2' released form? The 'English 2' released form typically includes reading comprehension passages, writing prompts, grammar and vocabulary exercises, and speaking or listening assessment sections to evaluate various language skills. Why is reviewing the 'English 2' released form important for students and educators? Reviewing the 'English 2' released form helps students familiarize themselves with the test format and question types, while educators can use it to tailor instruction and improve student performance on the actual exam.

Related keywords: English 2 released form NC, NC English 2 exam, NC English 2 registration, NC English 2 test dates, NC English 2 study guide, NC English 2 practice test, NC English 2 scoring, NC English 2 requirements, NC English 2 curriculum, NC English 2 resources

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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