English Textbooks In Japan And Korea Textbook

English textbooks in Japan and Korea play a pivotal role in shaping the language proficiency and educational development of students in these East Asian countries. As globalization continues to influence economies and cultures worldwide, the demand for English language skills has surged, prompting both Japan and Korea to develop and adopt diverse educational materials tailored to their unique linguistic and cultural contexts. This article explores the landscape of English textbooks in Japan and Korea, highlighting their history, characteristics, curriculum standards, and recent innovations.

The Evolution of English Textbooks in Japan and Korea

Historical Background

English education in Japan and Korea has a long-standing history, dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Western influence began to permeate their societies. Initially, English textbooks were imported from Western countries, primarily the United States and the United Kingdom, and designed with a focus on grammar and translation methods.

In Japan, the Meiji era marked the beginning of formal English education, with textbooks emphasizing classical literature and grammar rules. Similarly, Korea's modern English education system was influenced by Japanese colonization and later by American educational models post-liberation.

Development of Localized Materials

Over time, both countries recognized the importance of developing textbooks that resonate with their students' cultural contexts. This led to the creation of domestically authored materials that incorporate local examples, idioms, and cultural references, making learning more engaging and relevant.

Characteristics of English Textbooks in Japan and Korea

Curriculum Goals and Standards

Both Japan and Korea follow national curriculum standards that aim to develop four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The textbooks are designed to align with these

standards, fostering communicative competence alongside grammatical accuracy.

In Japan, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) sets the guidelines, emphasizing practical communication skills and intercultural understanding. Korea's Ministry of Education similarly emphasizes communicative competence, with an increasing focus on real-world language use.

Content and Structure

English textbooks in Japan and Korea typically feature:

- **Vocabulary Units:** Themed vocabulary lists related to daily life, travel, business, and cultural topics.
- **Grammar Sections:** Clear explanations and exercises on grammar points, often integrated with vocabulary lessons.
- **Listening and Speaking Activities:** Audio materials, dialogues, and role-plays to improve oral skills.
- **Reading Passages:** Articles, stories, and cultural notes to enhance reading comprehension.
- **Writing Exercises:** Practice prompts, essays, and summaries to develop writing abilities.

Design and Accessibility

Modern textbooks are increasingly visually appealing, featuring colorful illustrations, photos, and infographics to support understanding. Digital components, such as online exercises and multimedia resources, are also becoming standard, catering to diverse learning styles.

Differences and Similarities Between Japan and Korea's English Textbooks

Curriculum Focus

While both countries emphasize communicative competence, Japan's textbooks tend to place more emphasis on reading and grammar, reflecting traditional educational priorities. Korea, on the other hand, has been progressively incorporating more speaking and listening activities to foster conversational skills.

Teaching Approaches

Japanese textbooks often follow a more structured, grammar-based approach, especially in lower grades. Korean textbooks are increasingly adopting task-based and student-centered activities,

encouraging active participation.

Cultural Content

Both countries include cultural notes, but Korean textbooks often integrate more content about Korean culture and its relationship with English-speaking countries. Japanese textbooks sometimes focus more on intercultural understanding and global perspectives.

Recent Innovations and Trends in English Textbooks

Integration of Technology

The rise of digital learning platforms has transformed English education:

- Interactive online exercises and quizzes
- Video and audio materials for immersive learning
- Mobile apps complementing textbook content

Focus on Communicative and Functional Language

Modern textbooks prioritize practical language skills, such as:

- Travel phrases
- Business communication
- Daily conversation skills

This shift aims to prepare students for real-life situations rather than solely academic tests.

Inclusion of Cultural Diversity

Recognizing the global nature of English, textbooks now incorporate diverse cultural perspectives, promoting intercultural competence among learners.

The Role of Textbooks in the Education Systems of Japan and Korea

Supplementary Materials and Teaching Resources

In addition to core textbooks, teachers often use supplementary workbooks, flashcards, and multimedia resources to enhance lessons. These materials support differentiated instruction and

cater to varying student needs.

Assessment and Testing

Textbooks are aligned with national exams such as the EIKEN in Japan and the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) in Korea, ensuring that students are well-prepared for standardized assessments.

Teacher Training and Professional Development

Effective use of textbooks requires trained educators. Both countries invest in teacher training programs to maximize the benefits of their English materials.

Challenges and Future Directions

Addressing the Speaking and Listening Gap

Despite advances, many textbooks still emphasize reading and grammar, with less focus on speaking and listening. Future developments aim to balance these skills through more interactive content.

Adapting to Digital Learning Environments

As remote learning becomes more prevalent, textbooks must evolve to include digital-friendly formats and online engagement tools.

Supporting Multilingual and Multicultural Classrooms

With increasing diversity, textbooks are expected to incorporate multilingual support and culturally inclusive content to cater to a broader student demographic.

Conclusion

English textbooks in Japan and Korea are dynamic educational tools that have evolved significantly over the decades. They serve not only as resources for language acquisition but also as vehicles for cultural exchange and global competence. By continuously integrating technological advancements, focusing on communicative skills, and embracing cultural diversity, these textbooks are shaping the future of English education in East Asia. As both countries face the ongoing challenge of preparing learners for an interconnected world, their commitment to innovative and effective English teaching materials remains vital.

English textbooks in Japan and Korea play a crucial role in shaping the language proficiency and cultural understanding of students in both countries. As two nations with highly competitive education systems and a strong emphasis on English for global engagement, Japan and Korea have developed unique approaches to English language instruction through their textbooks. These materials reflect not only linguistic goals but also cultural values, pedagogical trends, and national educational priorities. Exploring the features, differences, and impacts of these textbooks offers insight into how each country prepares its students for a multilingual future.

Overview of English Education in Japan and Korea

Before delving into the textbooks themselves, it is important to understand the context of English education in both countries. Japan and Korea have historically prioritized English as a key subject in their curricula, especially from middle school onward. The focus has shifted over time from rote memorization and grammar drills to communicative competence, though traditional methods still influence many textbooks.

Japan emphasizes reading and grammar with a gradual introduction to speaking and listening, aligning with the national curriculum that aims to produce well-rounded students with solid foundational skills.

Korea places a strong emphasis on high-stakes exams, which often prioritize vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension. Recently, there has been a push toward developing speaking and listening skills to foster more communicative abilities.

Features of Japanese English Textbooks

Japanese English textbooks are often characterized by their structured layout, focus on grammar and vocabulary, and integration of cultural content.

Curriculum Goals and Content

- Emphasis on reading comprehension and grammatical accuracy.
- Gradual introduction of speaking and listening components.
- Cultural notes and context to enhance understanding of English-speaking countries.

Typical Structure

- Units centered around thematic topics (e.g., family, school, food).
- Clear progression from basic to more advanced language forms.

- Exercises include fill-in-the-blanks, multiple-choice questions, and translation tasks.
- Supplementary materials such as vocabulary lists and grammar explanations.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Strong grammatical foundation.
- Clear progression suited for exam preparation.
- Incorporation of cultural knowledge enhances contextual understanding.

Cons:

- Less emphasis on spontaneous conversation.
- Can be repetitive, focusing heavily on grammar drills.
- Limited exposure to authentic spoken English.

Examples of Popular Textbooks

- New Crown series (by Gakko Tosho)
- Sunshine series
- Progress in English

Features of Korean English Textbooks

Korean English textbooks are often designed with the high-stakes testing environment in mind while gradually integrating more communicative activities.

Curriculum Goals and Content

- Prioritization of reading comprehension and vocabulary for exams.
- Increasing focus on speaking and listening for real-world communication.
- Use of engaging topics to motivate students.

Typical Structure

- Units structured around themes like culture, environment, and technology.
- Emphasis on test-taking strategies.
- Exercises include listening comprehension, speaking practice, and writing tasks.
- Use of multimedia resources and online platforms.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

- Alignment with national exams ensures relevance.
- Incorporation of diverse listening and speaking activities.
- Use of authentic materials such as recordings and videos.

Cons:

- Heavy focus on exam techniques may limit creative language use.
- Less time for free conversation practice.
- Some textbooks may prioritize rote memorization over communicative competence.

Examples of Popular Textbooks

- New TEPS series
- Korean English 1, 2, 3 (by EBS)
- Smart English series

Comparative Analysis: Japan vs. Korea

While both countries aim to improve English proficiency, their textbooks reflect different pedagogical philosophies and educational priorities.

Focus on Language Skills

Aspect	Japan	Korea
Emphasis	Grammar and reading	Vocabulary and exam skills

| Speaking & Listening | Gradual introduction | More integrated, but still secondary to reading |

Pedagogical Approaches

- Japan: Traditional, grammar-based approach with incremental skill-building.
- Korea: Balances exam preparation with increasing emphasis on communicative skills.

Inclusion of Cultural Content

- Both countries incorporate cultural notes, but Japan often emphasizes cultural understanding of English-speaking countries, whereas Korea integrates more contemporary topics and media.

Use of Technology

- Korean textbooks frequently incorporate digital resources, online exercises, and multimedia.
- Japanese textbooks are increasingly adopting digital supplements but remain more print-oriented.

Impact on Students and Teachers

The design and content of English textbooks significantly influence how students learn and how teachers teach.

Student Outcomes

- Japanese students often develop strong grammatical and reading skills, excelling in written exams.
- Korean students may perform well in vocabulary and listening, but sometimes lack confidence in speaking and spontaneous communication.

Teacher Perspectives

- Japanese teachers appreciate the clear structure but often seek more innovative methods to foster speaking.
- Korean teachers face the challenge of balancing exam-focused content with practical language use.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Both countries are striving to modernize their textbooks to include more authentic language use.
- There is a growing recognition of the need for intercultural competence, prompting revisions to include more cultural diversity and real-world contexts.

The Future of English Textbooks in Japan and Korea

Looking ahead, English textbooks in both nations are likely to evolve further, driven by technological advancements and changing educational policies.

Emerging Trends

- Greater integration of digital platforms and interactive content.
- Emphasis on communicative competence and intercultural understanding.
- Development of textbooks aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Potential Challenges

- Ensuring accessibility and affordability of digital resources.
- Balancing exam requirements with practical language skills.
- Training teachers to effectively utilize new materials.

Innovations to Watch

- Use of virtual reality and AI-driven language practice tools.
- Incorporation of student-centered and project-based learning approaches.
- Enhanced focus on learner autonomy and personalized learning paths.

Conclusion

English textbooks in Japan and Korea serve as vital tools in shaping the linguistic and cultural competencies of millions of students. While each country?s textbooks reflect its unique educational priorities?Japan?s focus on grammar and foundational skills versus Korea?s emphasis on exam preparation and vocabulary?they are both gradually shifting toward more communicative, authentic, and technologically integrated approaches. The ongoing evolution of these educational materials

promises to better prepare students for the demands of a globalized world, fostering not only language proficiency but also intercultural understanding and lifelong learning skills. As educators and policymakers continue to refine these resources, the future of English education in Japan and Korea looks poised to become more dynamic, interactive, and responsive to the needs of learners.

QuestionAnswer Why are English textbooks in Japan and Korea often updated regularly? They are updated to incorporate current language usage, cultural relevance, and educational standards to improve students' language proficiency. How do English textbooks in Japan and Korea differ in content and approach? Japanese textbooks often emphasize grammar and reading, while Korean textbooks may focus more on speaking and listening skills, reflecting different teaching methodologies. Are there any popular publishers for English textbooks in Japan and Korea? Yes, publishers like Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Korean publishers such as YBM and Daekyo are prominent providers of English textbooks in both countries. What role do cultural elements play in English textbooks used in Japan and Korea? Cultural elements are integrated to make language learning more engaging and relevant, often including topics about Western countries, customs, and everyday life scenarios. How do English textbooks in Japan and Korea address the needs of diverse learners? They often include varying difficulty levels, supplementary materials, and interactive activities to cater to students with different learning styles and proficiency levels. Are digital versions of English textbooks common in Japan and Korea? Yes, many schools and publishers are shifting toward digital textbooks and e-learning platforms to enhance interactive learning and accessibility. What challenges do educators face when using English textbooks in Japan and Korea? Teachers often face challenges such as maintaining student engagement, balancing traditional methods with modern approaches, and addressing the varying proficiency levels of students. How do English textbooks in Japan and Korea prepare students for standardized tests? They include practice exercises, test-taking strategies, and mock exams aligned with national and international English proficiency assessments. What are some recent trends in the development of English textbooks in Japan and Korea? Recent trends include increased focus on communicative competence, integration of technology, and multicultural content to prepare students for a globalized world. How do English textbooks in Japan and Korea influence students? attitudes toward learning English? Well-designed textbooks can boost motivation and confidence by making learning relevant and engaging, though overemphasis on rote memorization can sometimes hinder enthusiasm.

Related keywords: English textbooks, Japan, Korea, language education, ESL materials, academic textbooks, bilingual textbooks, curriculum, language learning, educational publishing

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.

QuestionAnswer 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. 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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