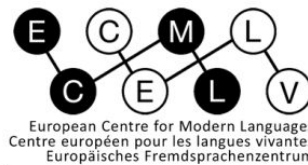


# European Day of Languages QUIZ



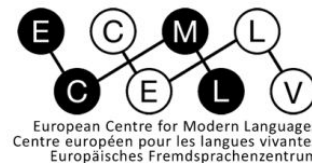
European Centre for Modern Languages  
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Europäisches Fremdsprachenzentrum



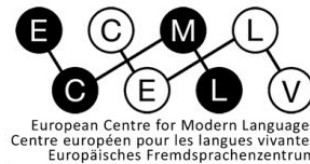
COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# 1. How many living languages are there estimated in the world today?

- a. Around 500
- b. Around 2000
- c. Around 6000
- d. Around 3500

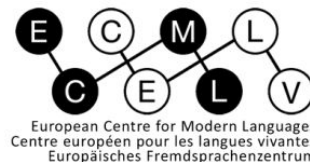


There are between **6000 and 7000** languages in the world - spoken by six billion people divided into **189** independent states.



## 2. What is generally considered to be the first form of written language?

- a. Cuneiform script
- b. Egyptian hieroglyphs
- c. Cyrillic alphabet
- d. Phoenician script

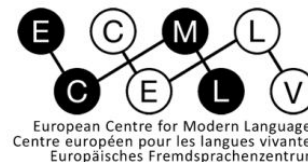


**Cuneiform** was used for over 3000 years throughout the Near East by such cultures as the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Hittites.

MEANING		OUTLINE CHARACTER, B. C. 3500	ARCHAIC CUNEIFORM, B. C. 2500	ASSYRIAN, B. C. 700	LATE BABYLONIAN, B. C. 500
1.	The sun				
2.	God, heaven				
3.	Mountain				
4.	Man				
5.	Ox				
6.	Fish				



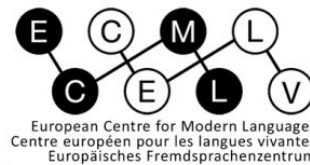
**Sumerian cuneiform**



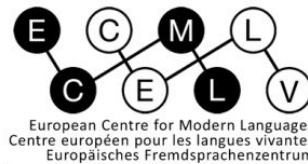
### 3. The official language of Azerbaijan is called?



- a. Azerbaijanian
- b. Azerbaijanic
- c. Azeri
- d. Azerban

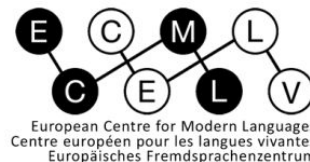


The official language of Azerbaijan  
is called **Azeri**.



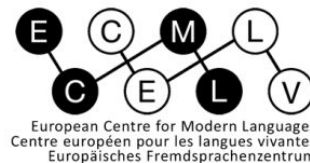
## 4. Where do sign languages come from?

- a. They have been copied from the great apes living in Africa.
- b. They were invented by the French Abbé de l'Epée between 1760 and 1789.
- c. They emerged naturally where deaf people were gathered together and are present also in some indigenous populations.
- d. They have been created in the language laboratory from the Gallaudet University (USA).



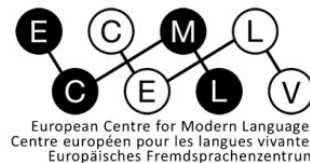


**The Abbé de l'Epée** is the first person who recognized the importance of using a sign language for the instruction of deaf children and is credited to have brought together the deaf community in an institution that later became Institut Saint Jacques (which still exists in Paris).



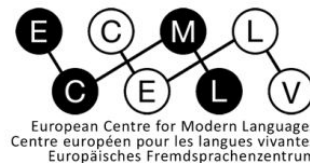
# 5. In which country is the language Cymraeg spoken?

- a. In the Faroe Islands
- b. In Wales
- c. In Scotland
- d. In Ireland



**Cymraeg (Welsh)** is the name of the Celtic language spoken in Wales.

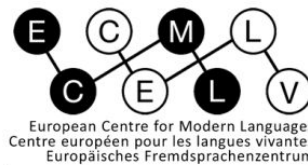
Wales has two official languages, Welsh and English. Welsh is a Celtic language established in the 6th century and is closely related to Cornish and Breton and is one of Europe's oldest living languages. Welsh is currently spoken by over 20% of the population, approximately 720,000 people. Wales is called Cymru in Welsh.



## 6. Sign language is universal. - true or false?



- a. true
- b. false

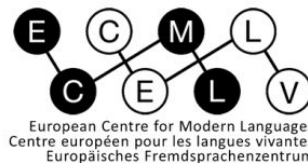


**False.** There are many varieties and there can actually **be more than one signed language in a country**, just as for oral languages.



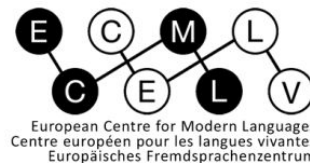
For example, there are **two sign languages in Belgium** (French Belgian Sign Language and Flemish Sign Language) or in **Spain** (Spanish Sign Language and Catalan Sign Language).

Also, there are different sign languages in countries that have the same spoken language, such as in the UK and Ireland. This is due to historical developments that are different to the ones experienced in spoken languages.

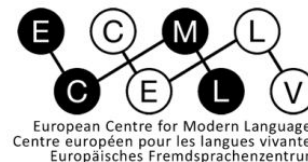


7. Which is the country with the highest number of languages spoken on its territory?

- a. Russia
- b. China
- c. Germany
- d. Norway



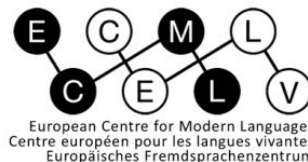
**Russia** (148 million inhabitants) has by far the highest number of languages spoken on its territory: from **130 to 200** depending on the criteria.





8. How many words does the active vocabulary of a person contain?

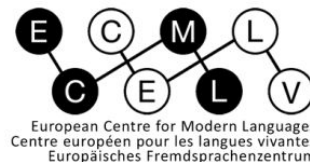
- a. 30.000 words
- b. 50.000 words
- c. 150.000 words
- d. 9.000 words





The words educated people use – their active vocabulary – **can reach some 50,000 words**; the words they know but do not use – their passive vocabulary – is somewhat larger. In everyday conversation, people often make use of a small number of words, but with great frequency.

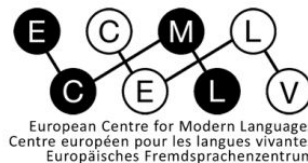
It has been estimated that a 21-year-old has already uttered some 50 million words.



## 9. Which affirmation is true?



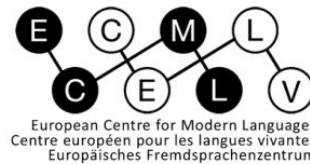
- a. Romanian and Bulgarian are Romance languages.
- b. Danish and Faroese are Slavic languages.
- c. Hungarian and Estonian belong to the Uralic language family.
- d. Latvian and Lithuanian belong to the Baltic language family.





The families in Europe with the most member-languages and the most speakers are the **Germanic, Romance, and Slavic**.

Germanic languages are Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Swedish. Slavic languages are Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Polish, Sorbian, Czech and Romance languages are Romanian, Occitan, French and Sardinian.



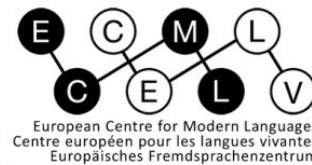


## 10. The tongue twister

Fisker Frits fisker friske fisk

is in:

- a. Norwegian
- b. Danish
- c. Icelandic
- d. Finnish



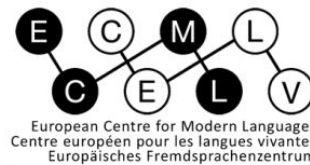


It's a tongue twister from Denmark!

Compare Danish to German:

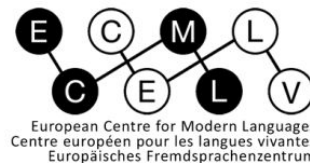
Fischers Fritz fischt frische Fische

Fisker Frits fisker friske fisk



11. Which of the following languages are written from right to left?

- a. Maltese
- b. Hebrew
- c. Arabic
- d. Japanese

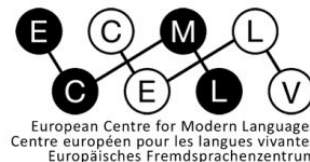


Hebrew and Arabic are written from

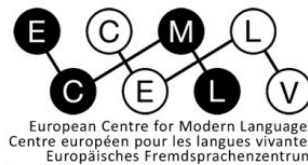
left.  
אבגדהוזחטי  
כךלמסננסע  
פףצץקרשת

Japanese traditionally, is written from top to bottom (and then right to left).

Maltese is written from left to right.



# Thank you for participating!



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