

Languages of the British Isles



BRITISH
I S L E S



Before reading learn the new words.

большинство

без запинки, бегло

колония

родной, местный

уменьшаться, снижаться

вторгаться, нападать

вторжение

оккупация, захват

приблизительно

родной язык

возрождаться, воскресать

общий, полный,
всеобщий

в первую очередь

племя

Look at the languages spoken in the British Isles?

Two thousand years ago, everyone in the British Isles spoke Celtic languages! English only began to develop in the 5th century AD when Anglo-Saxon tribes invaded Britain from Northern Europe.

Today, some people still speak Cornish fluently. The language is taught in some schools and BBC Radio Cornwall has a regular Cornish news broadcast.

Interesting fact: Cornish is a direct descendant of Brythonic, the original native language of Britain.

Say it! Py eur yw hi? (pronounced 'pee urr you hee') = What time is it?

'bay di'ch enoo ch'ee?') = What is your name?

What languages are spoken in the British Isles? Find out.



Celtic languages



Welsh



Irish



Scottish Gaelic



Manx



Cornish

Germanic languages

English



Listen to and read the text again. Then ask and answer comprehension questions based on the text.



Which language is the most recent to the British Isles?

English. It started when the Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain in the 5th century A.D.



Match the words to their definitions.

invasion



declining



occupation



native



roughly



revived



fluently



Approximately

Complete the sentences.

- 1 During the German [] of Europe, many people learned the German language.
- 2 The wall around the fortress protects it from [] by enemies.
- 3 [] half of all the students in the school can speak English fluently.
- 4 The number of French-speaking Canadians is [] due to changes in the language laws.
- 5 She speaks Italian, but her [] language is Spanish, as she grew up in Spain.
- 6 Hebrew was an extinct language until it was [] in the 19th century.
- 7 After living in France for almost twenty years, he speaks French []

invasion

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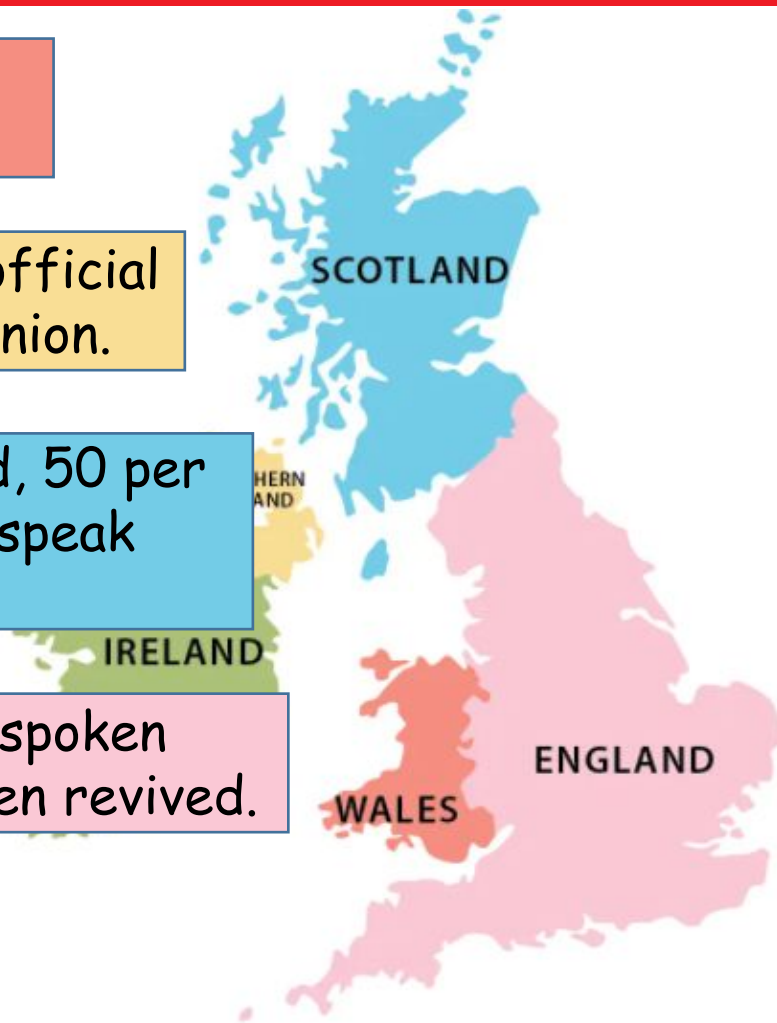
Close your book and tell your partner one thing you remember about each language.

It is compulsory for students to study Welsh in schools in Wales.

I remember that Irish is an official language of the European Union.

In some parts of Scotland, 50 per cent of the population speak Scottish Gaelic.

Cornish dies out as a spoken language, but now has been revived.



Work in groups. Collect information about some of the languages spoken in your country e.g. name, where spoken, number of speakers, interesting facts etc. Write a short article.

Over 100 languages are spoken in Russia, with many Russian Republics giving official status to their local languages.

Russian is the most widely spoken language and is the unifying language of all the republics. It is an east Slavic language and is used outside of Russia as well. It is one of the official languages of the United Nations with 260 million speakers worldwide.

Ukrainian is also an east Slavic language originating from the 16th century. It is the official language of the Ukraine with 39 million speakers.

It is the second most spoken language in the Russian Federation.

Tatar belongs to the Turkic language family and is spoken by the Tatars. Two thirds of Tartars live outside of Tartarstan. 8 million speakers Tartar.

It is the third largest spoken language in Russia.

Bashkir is similar to the Tartar language. In the past, Bashkirs used the Tatar written language. In 1923, they developed their own written language.

Most speakers live in Bashkortostan. There are over one million Russians who speak Bashkir.

