



УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ  
ГОЦЕ ДЕЛЧЕВ  
Избери мудро, делувај храбро

ДЕН НА  
АНГЛИСКИОТ  
ЈАЗИК  
23 АПРИЛ

## English Through the Ages

со ЦЕРЕМИ КАМАН

ФУЛБРАЈТ СТИПЕНДИСТ

КАМПУС 4 ШТИП

23.04.2026 ВО 11.30

КАМПУС СТРУМИЦА

27.04.2026 ВО 11.00

[www.ff.ugd.edu.mk](http://www.ff.ugd.edu.mk)



+389 032 550 150



[contact-ff@ugd.edu.mk](mailto:contact-ff@ugd.edu.mk)



# English Through the Ages

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST TO SUCCEED IN THE FUTURE

# What Exactly Is Language?



- Language: a system of communication consisting of words, sounds, and grammar
- Convey ideas, meaning, emotions, etc.
- Verbal, somatic, orthographic

# Language Activity #1

- Divide yourselves into six equal groups
- Task 1:
  - Introduce yourself
  - Where are you from
  - What is one fun fact about yourself
- Here's the catch
  - Group 1: Can only use modern slang (tik tok brainrot)
  - Group 2: You can only use words with two or fewer syllables
  - Group 3: You may not use conjunctions, auxiliary verbs, prepositions, articles
  - Group 4: You may not use words (only somatic signals or non-language sounds)
  - Group 5: You may only speak in the present tense
  - Group 6: You may only speak in questions



# Language Evolution

- Language evolves alongside cultural, social, and environmental factors
  - Language contact: migration, trade, other human interactions
  - Social differentiation: cultural evolution, slang, pronunciation
- Accent: pronunciation of words, associated with social or regional groups
- Dialect: distinct varieties of a language in which syntax and lexis are different from other varieties

# Language Differentiation

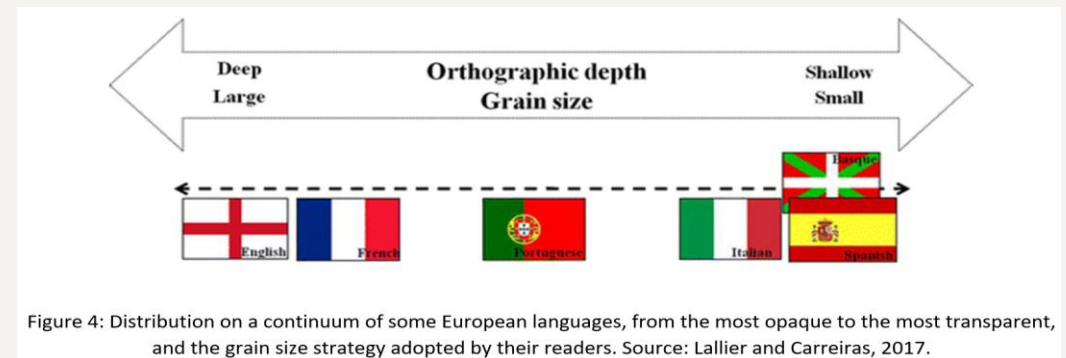
## PHONETIC

- Relationship between letters and sounds are consistent
- Cyrillic languages
- What are some examples?

А а	Б б	В в	Г г	Д д	Ѓ ѓ	Е е	Ж ж	З з
a	b	v	g	d	gj	e	zh	z
[a]	[b]	[v]	[g]	[d]	[j]	[e]	[ʒ]	[z]
С с	И и	Ј ј	К к	Л л	Љ љ	М м	Н н	Њ њ
dz	i	j	k	l	lj	m	n	nj
[ɟ]	[i]	[j]	[k]	[l]	[lj]	[m]	[n]	[nj]
О о	П п	Р р	С с	Т т	Ќ к	У у	Ф ф	Х х
o	p	r	s	t	kj	u	f	h
[ɔ]	[p]	[r]	[s]	[t]	[c]	[u]	[f]	[x]
Ц ц	Ч ч	Џ џ	Ш ш					
c	ch	dj	sh					
[ts]	[tʃ]	[dʒ]	[ʃ]					

## OPAQUE ORTHOGRAPHY

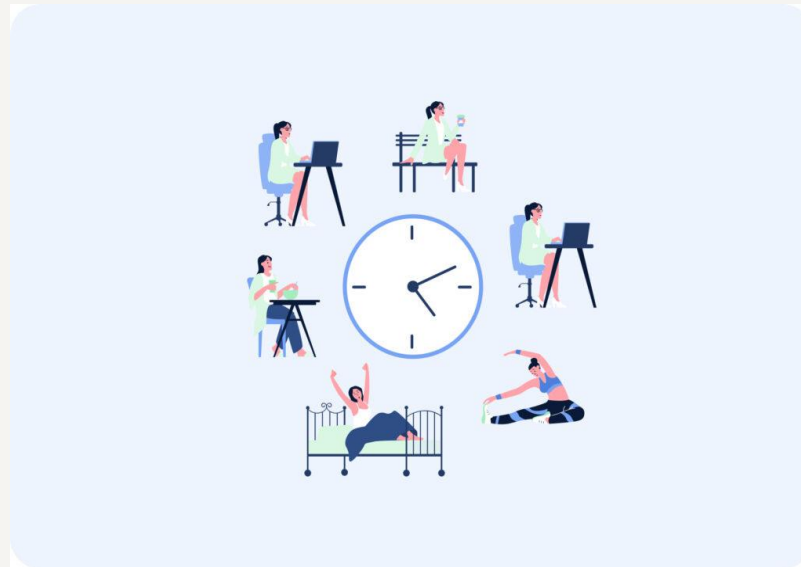
- Relationship between letters and sounds are inconsistent and language permits several exceptions
- English, French
- Examples: knight, summer, read



# Language Activity #2

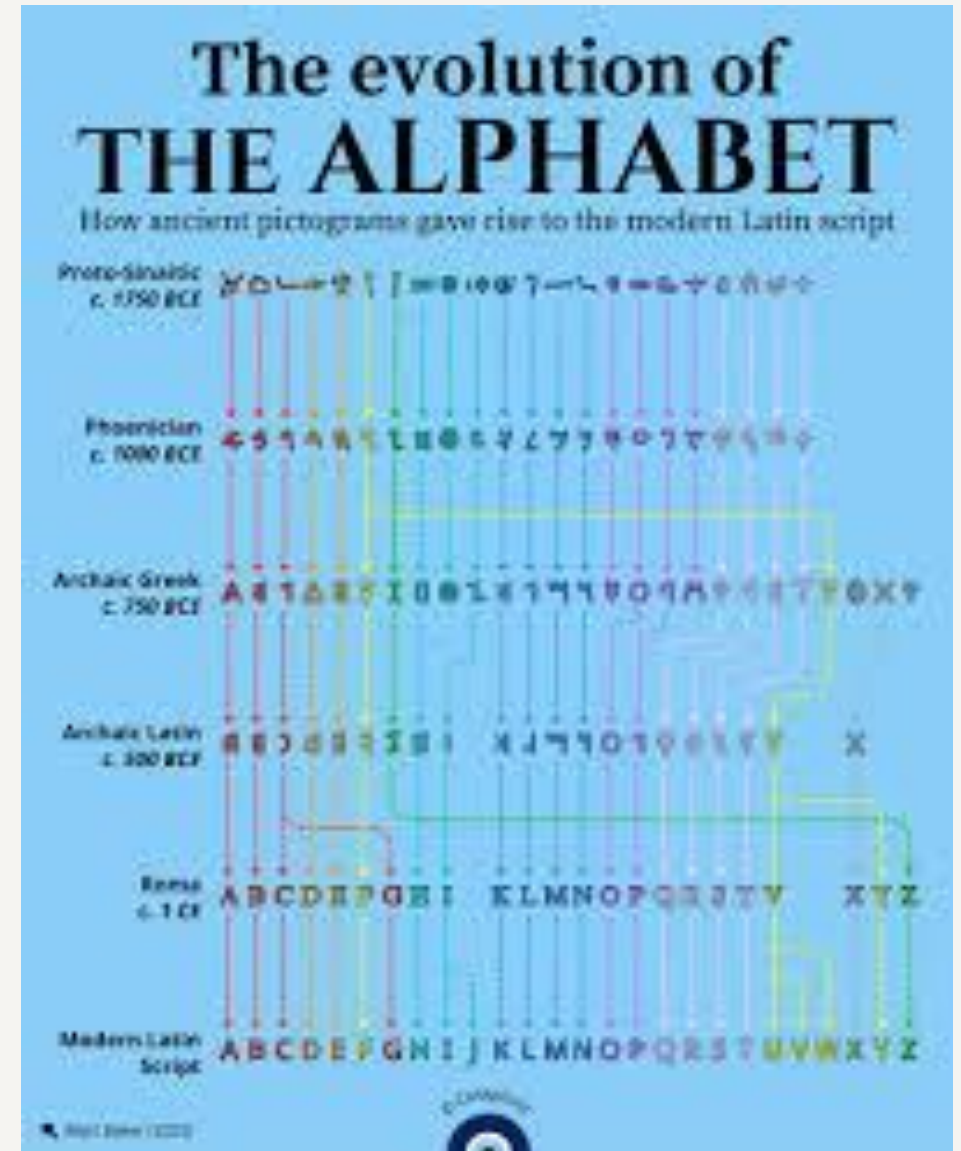
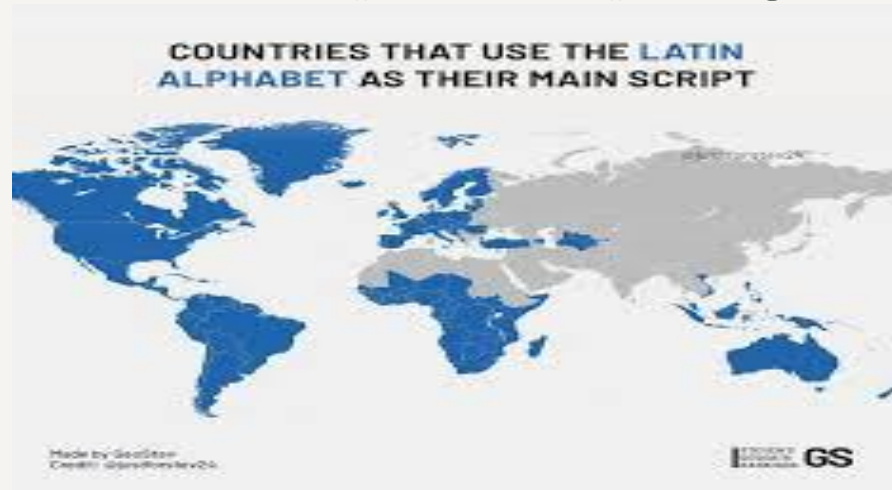
In the same groups, do the following:

Share your daily routine (morning to night)



# The Creation of the Latin Script

- Evolution from ancient Mediterranean languages
- Romans modified script to the one we now use
- Germanic conquerors of Rome adopted the Latin script
- The Catholic Church spread the script throughout the globe



# English Origins

- Member of the Indo-European family
  - Same family as most European, Icelandic, Indian, and west Asian languages
- German is a cousin to English in this family
  - Similar in sounds and grammar
- English is analytic vs. German synthetic
  - Difference between heavy linguistic inflections and the lack thereof



# English Before the English

- Roman Britain utilized Latin
  - Influenced grammatical structure
  - Provided the Roman alphabet
- North Britain spoke Celtic languages
  - Very low linguistic influence

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
A	BE	CE	DE	E	EF	GE	HA
ā	bē	cē	dē	ē	ef	gē	hā
[a:]	[be:]	[ke:]	[de:]	[e:]	[ɛf]	[ge:]	[ha:]
I	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
I	KA	EL	EM	EN	O	PE	QV
ī	kā	el	em	en	ō	pē	qū
[i:]	[ka:]	[ɛl]	[ɛm]	[ɛn]	[o:]	[pe:]	[k <sup>w</sup> u:]
R	S	T	V	X	Y	Z	
ER	ES	TE	V	EX	I GRAECA	ZETA	
er	es	tē	ū	ex	ī Graeca	zēta	
[ɛr]	[ɛs]	[te:]	[u:]	[ɛks]	[i: 'grajka]	['ze:ta]	



# Classical Interference

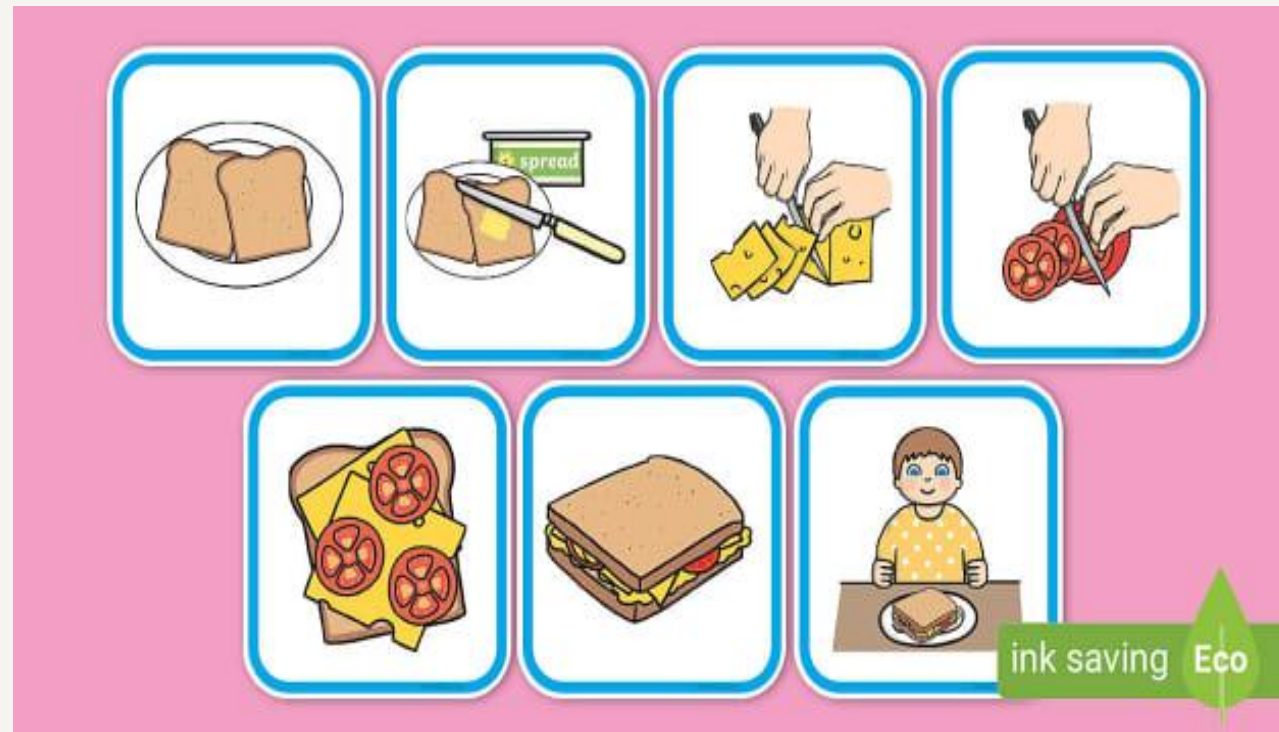
- Roman remnants, christian influence, and constant exposure to romance languages influenced English.
  - Simplified linguistics
    - Reduction in noun forms
    - Inflected verbs
    - Uninflected adjectives
    - Large amount of Romance languages in English vocab



# Language Activity #3

In the group do the following:

Explain how to make your favorite sandwich.



# Old English (450-1100 CE)

- Anglo-Saxon people from Denmark and North Germany invaded the British Isles in the 5th century
  - Brought language with them
- Language called "Old English"
  - Completely different than modern English
- Established foundational roots for words such as:
  - Be
  - Water
  - strong



# Middle English (1100 – 1500 CE)

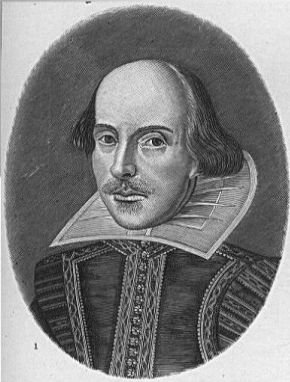
- 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, conquered England
  - Brought French
  - New language of the kingdom
- Linguistic hierarchy
  - French: Upper class
  - English: Lower class
- English regained dominance in the 14th century
  - French heavily influenced vocabulary, i.e. genre, soldier, entrepreneur
- Dialect emerged:
  - Gaf = gave
  - Theyre = their
  - Hir = here
  - French heavily influenced vocabulary

**Bifel that, in that seson on a day,  
In Southwerk, at the Tabard as I lay  
Redy to wenden on my pilgrimage  
To Caunterbury with ful devout corage,  
At night was come in-to that hostelryc  
Wel nyne and twenty in a companye,  
Of sondry folk, by aventure y-falle  
In felawshipe, and pilgrims were they alle,  
That toward Caunterbury wolden ryde;  
The chambres and the stables weren wyde,  
And wel we weren esed atte beste.  
And shortly, whan the sonne was to reste,  
So hadde I spoken with hem everichon,  
That I was of hir felawshipe anon,  
And made forward erly for to ryse,  
To take our wey, ther as I yow devyse.**

# Early Modern English (1500 –1800)

- The Great Vowel Shift: vowels suddenly being pronounced shorter
  - Cause is unknown, but top theories include migration impact from the Black Death or French influence
- Renaissance revolutionized language with innovations such as the printing press
  - New age of communication --> new age of language evolution
- Widespread literacy began

**Shakespeare in Early Modern English**



<b>thou/thee</b>	you
<b>thy/thine</b>	your
<b>doth</b>	do
<b>art</b>	are
<b>hither</b>	to here
<b>yonder</b>	over there
<b>henceforth</b>	from now on
<b>hence</b>	from here
<b>shall</b>	will, should
<b>wherefore</b>	why
<b>wilt</b>	will
<b>tis</b>	it is
<b>would</b>	wish
<b>hence</b>	from here
<b>st, est, it, t, th, eth</b>	take them off

I know a banke where the wilde time blowes,  
Where Oxslips and the nodding Violet growes,  
Quite ouercanoped with lushious woodbine,  
With sweete muske roses, and with Eglantine;  
There sleepest *Tytania*, sometime of the night,  
Luld in these flowers, with dances and delight:  
And there the snake throwes her enammeld skinne,  
Weed wide enough to rap a Fairy in.  
And with the iuyce of this, Ile streake her eyes,  
And make her full of hatefull fantasies.

# Language Activity #4

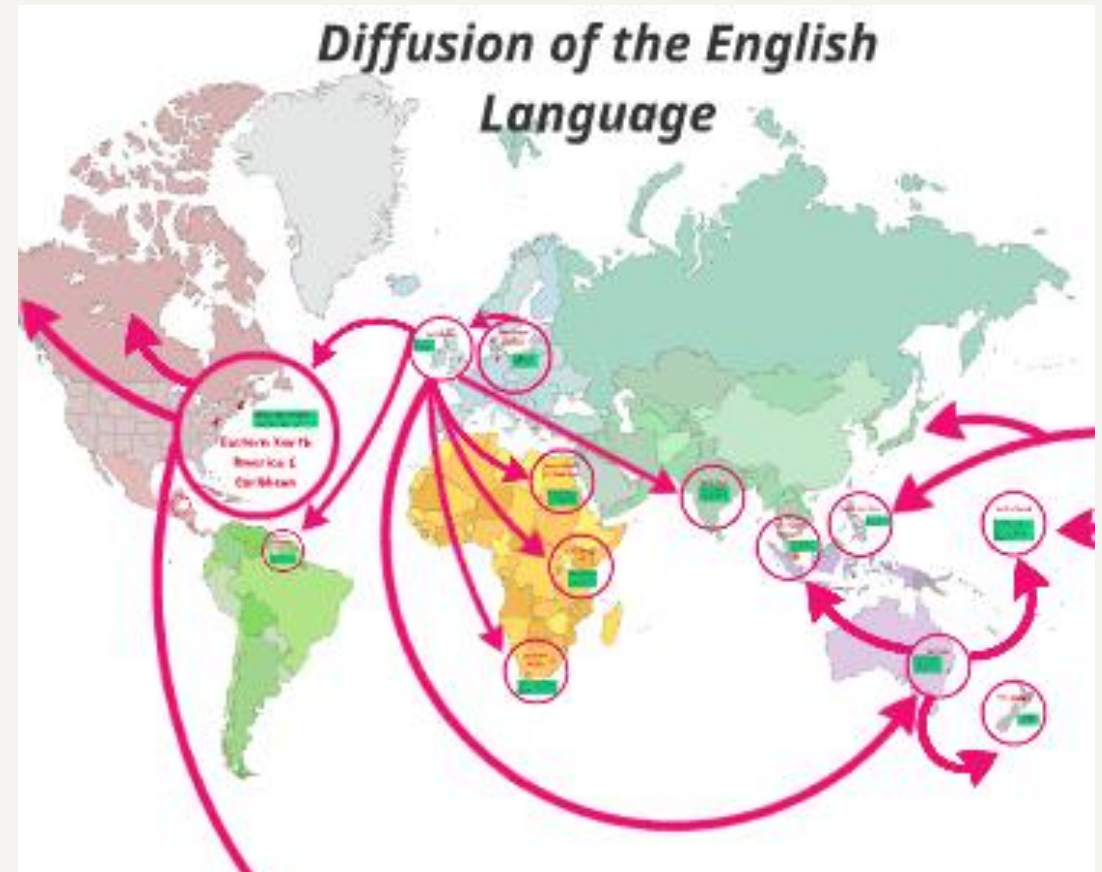
In the same groups solve the following problem:

You are late to your final exam. What do you do?



# Modern English (1800 – Present)

- Main difference lies in vocabulary
  - New innovations demanded new vocabulary
- Dialectal and accent formation
  - British Empire covered  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the world, absorbing local languages in each region
- Most common accent still affiliated with the British is the "King's English"



# The British Accent

## VOWEL SHIFTS

- "ae" becomes "a"
  - *Bath* is pronounced as *lot*
  - If more than one consonant follows the vowel
  - *Half the class needs a bath*
- "a" becomes "lip-rounded"
  - *Lot* is close to *taught*
  - Round your lips like you are making a kissy-face
  - I *thought* of calling *Shaun* this fall
- "oa" is more relaxed
  - *Goat* is similar to *hunt*
  - Don't *go roaming* all over the globe
- If "u" follows a "t, d, s, z, or n," it is similar to eww
- I took the *tube* to the *duke's* new *studio*.

## CONSONANT SHIFTS

- All "R" sounds following a vowel within a syllable are dropped
  - The *perturbed surfer* drove.
- Keep Rs at the end of the word
  - *Father* is mad at *brother*.
- Add an R to separate vowels
  - The *idear* of meeting the *Shahr* of *Persiar* is exciting.
- Never drop a T!

# Language Activity #5

In your same groups:

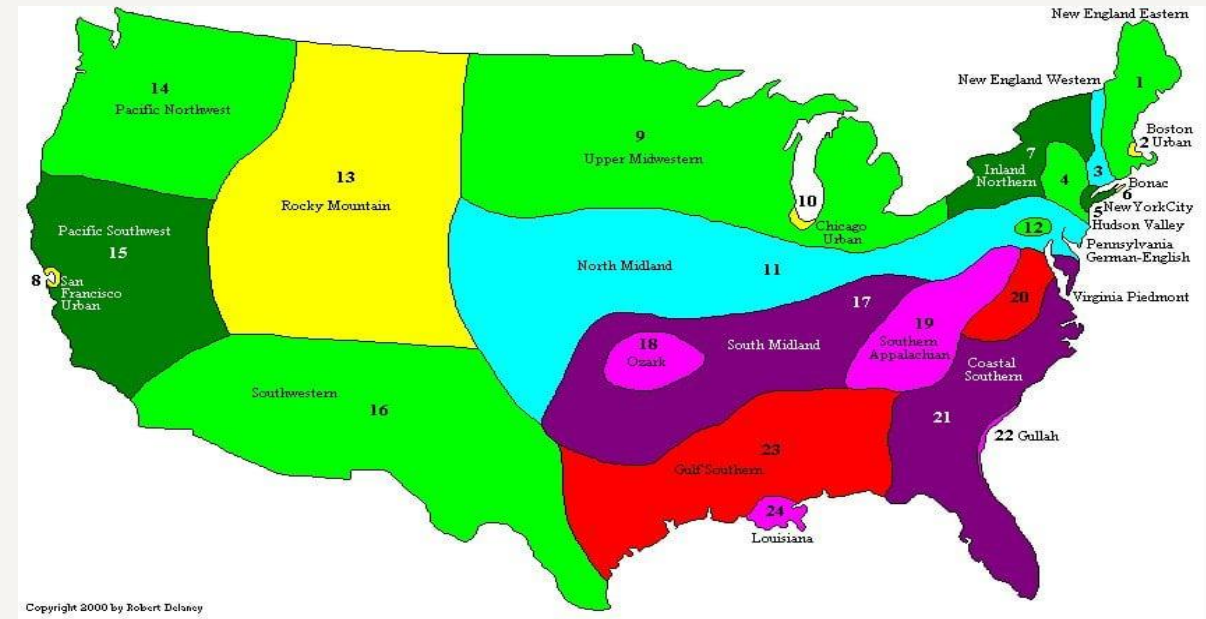
Plan a weekend trip to Ohrid.

You must agree on time, transportation, and activities.



# American English

- Closer to early modern English than modern British English
  - American vocabulary is "outdated" British vocab
- Pronunciation in the colonies froze compared to language evolution back on the British Isles
  - Intentional differences made to create American identity
- Integrated Spanish, French, and indigenous words and sounds
  - Geographic isolation from original language in conjunction with constant foreign language influence
- Accents evolved across the regions as unique cultures developed

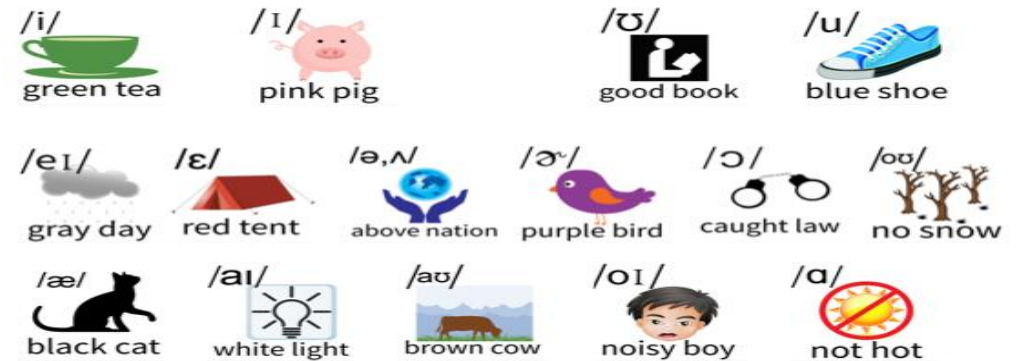


# The General American Accent

- Rhotic "r" = Americans stress the "R"
  - Never silent
  - Curl your tongue back just a bit, but DO NOT touch the roof of your mouth
  - Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.
- Schwa: reducing unstressed vowels to neutral "uh"
  - Sofa, about, wallet
- The T-flap: "t" between two vowels turns into a light "d"
  - Water, city, get it

## American English Vowel Sounds

### SMART Vowel Anchors



© SpeechModification.com

# American Accents

## SOUTHERN AMERICAN

- Mostly rhotic (keep them "r"s)
- Vowels are elongated
  - Think: huuuld uuup or raaaht
- Rhythm is slow and melodic
  - Focus on intonation and rhythm
  - Suugaaa, honeeeyy, eveninnnn

## BOSTON ACCENT

- Non-rhotic
  - Drop that "r" at the end of syllables or before a consonant
  - Pahk the cah!
  - Watah unda the bridge.
- New York influence may cause unique diphthongs
  - Two vowels sounds come out weird
    - Cawfee instead of coffee
- Fast rhythm and cadence
  - Two vowel sounds come out weird

### SOUTHERN **VS.** NORTHERN WORDS

Southern	Northern	Southern	Northern
Miss / Gal	Lass	Hogwash	Codswallop
Fella / Boy	Lad	Tarnation	By 'eck
Young'un	Bairn	Hankerin'	Fancy
Howdy	Ey up	Ruckus	Kerfuffle
Y'all take care	Ta-ra	Cuttin' up	Larkin' about
Ain't got nothing	Got nowt	Critter	Beastie
Ain't got anything	Got owt	Nearabout	Nigh on
Somethin'	Summat	Fetch	Get us

# Final Language Activity #6

Working with your group and the one next to you,  
address the following problem:

A zombie apocalypse just started. How will you survive?

Remember, you can only speak using your own group's rules!

# Take Aways

