

Advanced english grammar in use raymond murphy Reference

Advanced English Grammar in Use Raymond Murphy

Understanding and mastering advanced English grammar is essential for learners who aspire to achieve fluency, accuracy, and confidence in their language skills. Raymond Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use is widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive and user-friendly resources for this purpose. Designed for intermediate to advanced learners, this book offers clear explanations, practical examples, and extensive practice exercises that help users deepen their understanding of complex grammatical structures. In this article, we will explore the key features of Raymond Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use, its structure, how it benefits learners, and tips for maximizing its use to improve your English proficiency.

Overview of Raymond Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use

Raymond Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use is part of the popular In Use series, renowned for its straightforward approach to language learning. Unlike beginner or intermediate grammar books, this edition targets learners who already have a good foundation in English and seek to refine their grammatical accuracy and sophistication.

Some core features include:

- Clear, accessible explanations of complex grammatical concepts
- Numerous real-life examples illustrating each point
- Practice exercises with answer keys for self-assessment
- Progressive difficulty, allowing learners to build confidence gradually

The book is structured to facilitate independent learning, making it ideal for self-study, classroom use, or as a supplementary resource for advanced learners.

Structure and Content of the Book

Raymond Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use is organized into thematic units, each focusing on specific grammatical areas. This systematic approach helps learners focus on one concept at a time, ensuring thorough understanding.

Main Sections of the Book

- **Verb Tenses and Forms:** Covers complex tense usage, perfect and continuous aspects, and modal verb nuances.
- **Sentence Structure and Word Order:** Explores complex sentences, inversion, cleft sentences, and emphasis structures.
- **Clauses and Conjunctions:** Details relative clauses, adverbial clauses, and conjunctions for nuanced sentence construction.
- **Passive Voice and Causative Forms:** Explains advanced passive constructions and causative verb forms.
- **Reported Speech and Conditionals:** Offers insights into indirect speech, mixed conditionals, and hypothetical situations.
- **Special Topics:** Includes sections on formal and informal language, idiomatic expressions, and stylistic variations.

Each section contains a concise explanation of the rules, followed by multiple exercises designed to reinforce learning and encourage application.

Benefits of Using Advanced English Grammar in Use

Using Raymond Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use offers numerous advantages for learners aiming to elevate their English skills:

1. Clear and Concise Explanations

Murphy's explanations break down complex grammatical concepts into simple, understandable language. This clarity helps learners grasp difficult topics without feeling overwhelmed.

2. Practical Examples

Real-life examples demonstrate how grammatical rules are applied in context, aiding comprehension and retention.

3. Self-Assessment and Progress Tracking

Answer keys at the end of each section enable learners to evaluate their understanding and identify areas needing further practice.

4. Flexibility and Independence

The book's logical organization and straightforward style make it suitable for self-study, allowing learners to progress at their own pace.

5. Preparation for Academic and Professional Communication

Mastering advanced grammar ensures that learners can produce formal, precise, and nuanced language suitable for academic writing, professional correspondence, and advanced conversation.

How to Maximize the Effectiveness of Advanced English Grammar in Use

To make the most of Raymond Murphy's resource, consider the following strategies:

1. Regular Practice

Set aside dedicated time for daily or weekly study sessions. Consistent practice helps reinforce learning and develop automaticity.

2. Use Supplementary Materials

Combine the book with other resources such as online exercises, language apps, or conversation practice to enhance understanding and fluency.

3. Focus on Difficult Areas

Identify grammatical structures that challenge you and spend extra time reviewing and practicing those sections.

4. Engage in Active Learning

Instead of passively reading, write original sentences, participate in discussions, or teach the concepts to someone else to deepen your grasp.

5. Review and Revise

Periodically revisit previous units to consolidate knowledge and prevent forgetting important rules.

Sample Topics Covered in Advanced English Grammar in Use

Below are some specific advanced grammar points addressed in the book:

- Using the perfect continuous tense to emphasize the duration of an ongoing action
- Mastering inversion for emphasis or formal contexts, e.g., "Rarely have I seen such talent."
- Distinguishing between subjunctive and indicative moods in wish and hypothetical sentences
- Employing advanced passive constructions, such as "The problem was being solved by the team."
- Understanding and utilizing mixed conditionals to express complex hypothetical situations
- Using cleft sentences and other emphasis structures to highlight specific information

These topics are essential for learners aiming to communicate with greater precision and stylistic variety.

Who Can Benefit from Advanced English Grammar in Use

This book is ideal for:

- Advanced ESL/EFL learners seeking to refine their grammatical accuracy
- Students preparing for university-level English exams (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge exams)
- Professionals needing to improve formal writing and speech
- Teachers looking for a reliable resource to explain complex grammar points

By mastering the advanced concepts in this book, learners can confidently produce sophisticated, articulate, and grammatically correct English.

Conclusion

Raymond Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use remains a cornerstone resource for learners aiming to elevate their English proficiency beyond basic and intermediate levels. Its structured approach, clear explanations, and ample practice opportunities make it an invaluable tool for mastering complex grammatical structures. Whether used independently or as part of a classroom curriculum, this book empowers learners to communicate with greater clarity, accuracy, and stylistic finesse.

To achieve the best results, combine the book's exercises with active language use, seek feedback, and continually challenge yourself with new and complex topics. With dedication and strategic study, mastering advanced English grammar becomes an attainable goal, opening doors to academic success, professional growth, and confident communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- advanced English grammar
- Raymond Murphy
- English grammar in use
- advanced grammar exercises
- grammar for advanced learners
- improving English proficiency
- grammar explanations
- self-study English grammar
- academic English grammar
- professional English communication

Advanced English Grammar in Use Raymond Murphy: A Deep Dive into Mastery

Advanced English Grammar in Use Raymond Murphy has established itself as a cornerstone resource for learners and teachers striving to elevate their understanding of English grammar. Renowned for its clarity, structured approach, and practical exercises, Murphy's work offers a comprehensive pathway from intermediate mastery to advanced proficiency. This review aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the book's features, its pedagogical strengths, and how it facilitates learners' progression toward linguistic excellence.

Introduction: The Significance of Murphy's Grammar in Language Learning

English language learners often grapple with complex grammatical structures, which can impede fluency and comprehension. Raymond Murphy's English Grammar in Use series has long been a trusted companion, and its advanced edition amplifies this reputation by targeting learners who have already grasped the basics and are now seeking sophistication. The book's emphasis on real-world application, contextual examples, and self-assessment makes it an invaluable tool for those aiming to refine their grammatical accuracy and stylistic nuance.

Structure and Layout: A User-Friendly Approach

Clear Chapters and Logical Progression

Murphy's Advanced English Grammar in Use is meticulously organized into thematic chapters that mirror natural language use. Each chapter begins with an overview of the grammatical point, followed by detailed explanations, examples, and practice exercises. The progression from simpler to more complex structures ensures learners build confidence incrementally.

Modular Design for Self-Directed Learning

The book's modular design allows learners to focus on specific areas of difficulty, such as conditionals, passive constructions, or complex sentence structures, without feeling overwhelmed. This flexibility fosters autonomous learning and targeted practice.

Visual Aids and Highlighted Features

Key features include:

- Highlighting grammatical rules and exceptions for quick reference.
- Examples in context to illustrate usage in real-life situations.
- Summary boxes to reinforce learning points.
- Self-assessment tests at the end of each chapter, encouraging learners to evaluate their understanding.

Content Depth: From Advanced Grammar Points to Nuanced Usage

Covering Complex Structures

Murphy's advanced edition delves into intricate grammatical topics often overlooked in standard courses:

- Subjunctive mood and its nuanced applications in formal and literary contexts.
- Advanced conditionals, including mixed conditionals and hypothetical scenarios.
- Discourse markers and connectors that enhance coherence and cohesion.
- Complex sentence structures, such as noun clauses, relative clauses, and participial phrases.
- Verb patterns and nuances in tense and aspect, including perfect and continuous forms in complex contexts.
- Modal verbs in past and future contexts, emphasizing subtle differences in meaning and modality.

Stylistic and Formal Variations

In addition to structural rules, Murphy emphasizes stylistic considerations, when and how to choose more formal or informal expressions. This focus is particularly valuable for advanced learners preparing for academic, professional, or literary writing.

Practical Application: Exercises and Reinforcement

Varied Exercise Types

The book offers a spectrum of practice activities designed to reinforce learning:

- Fill-in-the-blank exercises to test understanding of grammatical forms.
- Error correction tasks to identify common mistakes.
- Sentence rewriting exercises that encourage stylistic variation.
- Short paragraph completion to practice cohesion and grammatical accuracy within context.
- Multiple-choice questions for quick assessment of understanding.

Self-Assessment and Progress Tracking

Periodic review sections enable learners to assess their mastery of previous chapters. This iterative process promotes retention and confidence, crucial for advanced language use.

Pedagogical Strengths and Limitations

Strengths

- Clarity and accessibility: Complex topics are broken down into understandable segments with ample examples.
- Contextual learning: Usage examples are often drawn from real-life situations, enhancing relevance.
- Autonomous learning support: The self-study format makes it ideal for individual learners or classroom use.
- Progressive difficulty: The gradual increase in complexity prepares learners effectively for advanced language tasks.

Limitations

- Lack of interactive digital features: As a primarily print-based resource, it may benefit from supplementary online exercises or multimedia.
- Focus on written grammar: Less emphasis is placed on spoken language nuances and pronunciation.
- Assumes prior knowledge: It is designed for learners with a solid intermediate background, so absolute beginners may find it challenging initially.

How Murphy's Advanced Grammar Enhances Language Proficiency

Precision and Clarity in Communication

Mastery of advanced grammar enables learners to articulate ideas with precision, reducing ambiguity and enhancing clarity—an essential skill in professional and academic contexts.

Stylistic Nuance and Sophistication

Understanding subtle grammatical differences allows for stylistic variation, enriching writing and speech. For instance, the appropriate use of conditionals can convey hypothetical scenarios or polite requests more effectively.

Academic and Professional Excellence

Proficiency with complex grammatical structures is often a prerequisite for academic writing, research publication, and professional communication. Murphy's book equips learners with the tools necessary to meet these standards.

Conclusion: A Valuable Resource for the Advanced Learner

In summation, **Advanced English Grammar in Use Raymond Murphy** stands out as an authoritative, comprehensive, and accessible resource. Its structured approach, contextual examples, and varied exercises make it an indispensable tool for learners aiming to attain grammatical mastery and linguistic confidence. While it is primarily designed for independent study, its pedagogical clarity also makes it suitable for classroom settings. As language continues to evolve, Murphy's focus on nuanced usage and stylistic choices ensures that learners are well-equipped to navigate the complexities of advanced English with competence and finesse.

For anyone committed to elevating their command of English beyond the basics, Murphy's advanced edition offers a pathway marked by clarity, depth, and practical relevance—making it a vital addition to any serious learner's library.

Question What are some advanced grammar topics covered in Raymond Murphy's 'English Grammar in Use'? The book covers complex topics such as mixed conditionals, passive voice variations, reported speech in different tenses, advanced verb forms, and nuances of modal verbs in various contexts. **Answer** How does 'English Grammar in Use' by Raymond Murphy help learners improve their understanding of tense usage? It provides clear explanations, numerous practice exercises, and real-life examples that clarify the correct usage of tenses, including perfect and continuous forms in advanced contexts. Can 'English Grammar in Use' be used for self-study at an advanced level? Yes, the book is designed for self-study and is suitable for learners seeking to deepen their understanding of advanced grammar, offering explanations, practice questions, and answer keys. How are the exercises in Raymond Murphy's 'English Grammar in Use' structured for advanced learners? The exercises are varied, including multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and sentence correction tasks that challenge learners to apply complex grammar rules accurately. Does

'English Grammar in Use' include explanations of subtle grammar differences often tested in exams? Yes, it covers subtle distinctions such as differences between 'since' and 'for', use of 'have been' vs. 'had', and other nuanced grammar points relevant for advanced learners and exam preparation. What makes Raymond Murphy's approach effective for mastering advanced English grammar? His approach combines straightforward explanations, real-world examples, and practical exercises, making complex grammar accessible and easier to internalize. Are there online resources or supplementary materials available for 'English Grammar in Use' to aid advanced learners? Yes, there are online practice tests, interactive exercises, and additional downloadable resources that complement the book and enhance learning for advanced students. How does the book address common errors made by advanced learners of English? It highlights frequent mistakes, explains the correct usage, and provides targeted exercises to help learners avoid these errors and use grammar accurately. Is 'English Grammar in Use' suitable for preparing for advanced English proficiency exams? Absolutely, the book covers many grammar points tested in exams like the IELTS, TOEFL, and Cambridge Advanced, making it a valuable resource for exam preparation.

Related keywords: English grammar, Raymond Murphy, grammar exercises, language learning, grammatical rules, English practice, grammar book, ESL, self-study, language skills

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. **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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