

How Many Languages Do You Speak When You Speak English?

The answer may surprise you! English has been created by many cultures and many races over many centuries. Every culture that has used it has added words to it. The English language contains words from many different languages, including French, Spanish, Hindi, Filipino, German, Japanese, and Arabic.

TRY THIS

Read the words below out loud. Even if you don't speak any language other than English, you may be able to guess what language these words came from. Match the word with the language you think it came from originally. Write the letter of the language next to the number of the word. Some letters may be used more than once. We did the first one for you.

WORD

b 1. rendezvous

__ 2. chocolate

__ 3. pizza

__ 4. kindergarten

__ 5. karate

__ 6. shampoo

__ 7. casserole

__ 8. broccoli

__ 9. knapsack

__ 10. guitar

LANGUAGE

a. Spanish

b. French

c. Italian

d. Hindi

e. German

f. Japanese

USE YOUR EARS

Here are words that you may have heard but have never read. Say each word aloud. Next to each word is a guide to help you pronounce it. Once you have heard the word aloud, see if you can figure out its meaning. Write the letter of the meaning next to the number of the correct word. Guess which language each word comes from. Write your guesses on the blank lines. We did the first one for you.

g 11. macho (MAH cho)

__ 12. déjà vu (day zhah VOO)

__ 13. cachet (kah SHAY)

__ 14. à propos (ah proh PO)

__ 15. ciao (chow)

g. strong pride in one's masculinity

h. the feeling that one has seen or heard something before

i. good-bye

j. relevant

k. prestige or honor

Spanish