

Before you watch**1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 What other languages can you speak apart from English?
- 2 Is your language similar to any other languages? Which ones?
- 3 Do you know any words in your language that are similar or the same in English?

Comprehension check**2**  Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?
a France b Germany c Denmark
- 2 Where did the Vikings come from?
a France and Norway
b Germany and Denmark
c Denmark and Norway
- 3 Where did the Normans come from?
a France b Germany c Denmark

3  Watch again. Match the English words (1–6) with who or where they came from (a–f).

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1 house | a the internet |
| 2 cake | b the internet |
| 3 field | c the Anglo-Saxons |
| 4 firewall | d the Anglo-Saxons |
| 5 ball | e the Vikings |
| 6 inbox | f the Vikings |

4  Watch again. Are the sentences true or false? Correct the false sentences.

- 1 The Anglo-Saxons invaded England in the 1500s. **true / false**
- 2 The Vikings came to England after the Anglo-Saxons. **true / false**
- 3 Jorvik is the Viking name for the city of York. **true / false**
- 4 In 1066, the Normans conquered England. **true / false**
- 5 The Norman rulers spoke English. **true / false**
- 6 English is the first language in the USA. **true / false**

Round up**5 SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the question.

Do you think English is an easy or difficult language to learn? Why?

Vocabulary

6 Complete the text about the Romans in Britain with the correct form of the words below.

battle conquer invade rule settle tribe



The Romans in Britain

When the Romans ¹ _____ Britain in 43 AD, there were many different ² _____ living there. At first, the Romans ³ _____ in southern England, but over the next forty years they moved north and west, and during that time they ⁴ _____ the southern three-quarters of Britain. In 71 AD, Roman leaders sent their armies into Scotland. They fought many ⁵ _____ with the Scottish tribes, but were never successful, and the Romans never ⁶ _____ in Scotland.

Extension

7 Work in groups. Draw a map of your country and the surrounding countries in the region.

Choose a 200-year period. Use the internet to find out:

- which tribes and countries invaded or settled in your country.
- where and when important battles took place.
- what influence these people had on the country.

Use arrows and pictures to draw these on the map.

8 Do you think these invasions had a positive or negative effect on your country, the language and culture? Why? Use the key phrases for expressing opinions.

Expressing opinions

I think / don't think that ...

In my opinion, ...

It seems to me that ...

To be honest, ...

As I see it, ...

I imagine that ...

DVD clip summary

The DVD clip is about the tribes and peoples that have invaded and settled in Britain and the origins of the English language.

Background

The English language has the third highest number of native speakers in the world, after Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. It is the official language of 58 countries and is spoken widely in many others. English is a West Germanic language, and Old English was brought to England by the Anglo-Saxons in the 5th century. The language we speak today was also influenced by Old Norse, the language of the Vikings, who arrived in Britain in the 9th and 10th centuries, and Norman French, which arrived with the Norman invasion in the 11th century. Many words have their origins in Latin and have entered the language through the Christian Church. Because it has taken words from many different languages, modern English has a huge vocabulary with over 250,000 distinct words.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class, and elicit answers from individual students. Find out how many different languages the class can speak. See how many words in your language the students can come up with that are similar or the same in English.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Comprehension check

Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 b 2 c 3 a

Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to try and match the words before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 c/d 2 e/f 3 c/d 4 a/b 5 e/f 6 a/b

Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to say if the sentences are true or false before they watch the DVD clip again. Then watch the DVD clip and ask them to correct the false sentences afterwards.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:**
 - 1 false – The Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain in the 5th century.
 - 2 true
 - 3 true
 - 4 true
 - 5 false – The Norman rulers spoke French.
 - 6 true

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the question.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- Ask the students to read through the text first, then complete the sentences. With a **weaker class** you could elicit the meanings of the words first. Remind them that they need to change the form of the words, so they should think about the type of word they need. As an additional activity, you could ask students to describe the picture.
- **Answers:** 1 invaded 2 tribes 3 settled 4 conquered 5 battles 6 ruled

Extension

Exercises 7 and 8

- **Materials needed:** Large pieces of paper, pens, computers with internet access
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three. Tell them they are going to draw a historical map of their region. To begin with they should use the internet or the library to choose a 200-year period in history they want to write about and find out as much as they can about who arrived during that time and what effect they had on the people.
- **Language:** Write on the board: *It's more important to learn Chinese than English.* Ask the students what they think of this statement, and elicit phrases for giving opinions.
- **Activity:** Once they have researched their time period, ask one student to draw the map and the others to make notes about the invasions, and the influence they had on the country. Ask the students to present their findings to the rest of the class. Then discuss exercise 8 together.
- **Extension:** After all the groups have presented their maps, ask the students to vote on which period of history they think had the biggest influence on life in the country today.

The English language

This is West Stow Anglo Saxon village. It's in Suffolk in England and it shows what life was like here over 1,500 years ago. The Anglo-Saxons were a group of tribes from northern Germany. They invaded Britain in the 5th century and settled in this area. Today we can see their influence everywhere, most importantly in the language we speak. We now call the Anglo-Saxon language Old English and there are still lots of similarities between English and German. The German word for *man* is 'Mann', *field* is 'Feld' and *house* is 'Haus'.

But modern English is very different to Old English. The vocabulary is much larger than before. This is because modern English takes influences from many other languages. One of the earliest languages to influence English came in 800 AD, when the Vikings arrived from Denmark and Norway.

This is York. In Viking times, the city was called Jorvik and modern visitors can see the Vikings' influence everywhere. This is Mickelgate. The name means 'Great Street', gate coming from 'gata', the old Viking word for street. A lot of York's streets have the word 'gate' in their name. There's High and Low Petergate, two of York's most historic places and Stonegate, one of the city's busiest streets.

The Vikings gave English around 2,000 words. So, when we put a *ball* in a *bag*, or we're *happy* because we have *cake*, we can thank the Vikings.

The next big influence on the English language arrived on this field in 1066, when the Normans, from France, conquered England in one of the most important battles in English history. The Normans spoke French and for 300 years they ruled England. French became the language of the ruling classes, while Old English was still the language of most ordinary people. But over time, French words entered the language, and today there are lots of French words in English.

English is now the first language of many different countries, including the USA, and millions of people learn it as a second, third or fourth language.

It's now the language of the internet too. It has given the world words like *email*, *inbox*, *download*, *toolbar* and *firewall*, and some experts say that over half of the most popular websites are in English. It's amazing to think that it all started in small villages like this.