



TASK 1: CREOLES

Group no.: **School:**

Participants:

1.
2.
3.

Information

Pidgins (mispronunciation of the word ‘business’) are languages which were formed mainly on isolated, plantation-based islands, where labourers came from different linguistic backgrounds. When children were born, pidgin became their native language and gradually developed into a *creole*. Creoles are as formalized, efficient and expressive as any other languages. The following table contains some Creole expressions from Papua New Guinea and Africa:

Instruction

Your task is to provide the missing etymologies and translations (and feel free to smile) (**10 points**).

Creole Expression	Etymology	Translation
gras belong fes	grass that belongs to the face	beard
gras bilong hed		
gras belong pisin		
gras antap long ai		
mausgras	mouth grass	
rop belong blut		vein
pul bad briz		pass gas
bottom bottom waka waka	bottom bottom shine shine	

(Author: mgr Jacek Woźny IFA. Based on: Bryson, Bill. 1990. *The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got That Way*. New York: William Morrow and co. inc.)



TASK 2: WORDS THAT ARE OFTEN MISPELLED

Group no.: **School:**

Information

Spellings In English are so treacherous and opportunities for flummoxing so abundant that most of us sometimes stumble. Just a quick test to see if you can tell which of the following words are misspelled: supercede, conceed, procede, idiosyncracy, concencus, accomodate, rhytm, irresistable, grafitti, cesarian.

In fact, they all are. So was *misspelled* at the end of the preceeding paragraph. So was *preceding* in the previous sentence. Maddening, isn't it?

Instruction

Try to correct all the misspelled words repeated again in the table below, and provide a brief explanation of the meaning of each word (**20 points**).

wrong spelling	correct spelling	brief explanation of the meaning
supercede		
conceed		
procede		
idiosyncracy		
concencus		
accomodate		
rhytm		
irresistable		
grafitti		
cesarian		

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TASK 3: RHYMING PAIRS

Group no.: **School:**

Information

The raucousness of English pronunciation is often exemplified by the multitude of possible pronunciations of the 'ough' cluster as in: *through, though, tough, thought, thorough, hiccough and cough*. Have a quick look through the following pairs of words to see how many of them rhyme: heard – beard, road – broad, filet – skillet, early – dearly, steak – streak, ache – moustache, low – how, scour – four, paid – said, break – speak. How many? Well, none of course.

Instruction

Your task is to find true rhymes for all of the above words (**20 points**)

word	rhyme	word	rhyme
heard		beard	
road		broad	
filet (as in <i>filet mignon</i>)		skillet	
early		dearly	
steak		streak	
ache		moustache	
low		how	
scour		four	
paid		said	
break		speak	

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TASK 4: THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

Group no.: **School:**

Information

In the points below you will find a brief explanation of the principles governing the use of the definite article with English proper names. Please read them carefully and decide if the definite article has to be used with the names used in the story that follows.

1. The definite article is used in the names of locations that lack clearly visible and fixed borders that go all the way around them like seas and oceans, e.g. *the Baltic Sea* and *the Atlantic Ocean*. The article is not needed if fixed and clearly visible borders are present, e.g. *Lake Ontario*, *Germany*, etc.
2. The definite article is used if the name of a location reveals what the place is like, e.g. *the United Kingdom* (in fact it is a kingdom and a union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). The definite article is not needed if the name of a location fails to reveal what the place is like, e.g. *Poland*.

Instruction

Fill in the gaps with the definite article where necessary (**20 points**).

Last summer we flew to ___ USA and visited a few interesting places. First we went to ___ Grand Canyon National Park. We hiked across ___ Kaibab Plateau and along ___ South Rim to take fabulous pictures of the northern part of the park. Then we drove to ___ Canyon de Chelly, where many westerns were filmed, ___ Painted Desert, which is full of rocks in unbelievable colors and ___ Four Corners, a point where the borders of four American states meet. We rested a bit on a ranch in ___ Colorado in ___ Sawatch Range and went on. We crossed ___ Great Plains, stopped for the night in a motel in ___ Sioux County in ___ Nebraska and in ___ Black Hills. It was fun to visit ___ Jewel Cave, the second longest cave in the world and ___ Mount Rushmore, where the heads of four US presidents are carved in rock. Finally we took a plane to Washington and took a quick tour of the main attractions. We saw ___ White House, ___ Lincoln Memorial with a giant statue of Lincoln inside, ___ Pentagon, ___ Arlington Cemetery and the headquarters of ___ Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Glossary

plateau	wyżyna
rim	krawędź
plains	równina
range	łańcuch górski

(Author: Prof. dr hab. Leszek Berezowski IFA)

TASK 5: BRIEF PHRASES

Group no.: School:

Information

English speaking journalists are famous for creating brief versions of long phrases by changing the word order to get rid of articles prepositions and noun endings. Please study the pattern illustrated below and try to abbreviate the phrases listed in the table.

a meeting of spies	= a spy meeting
a picture from the meeting of spies	= a spy meeting picture
an old picture from the meeting of spies	= an old spy meeting picture
an old picture from the summer meeting of spies	= an old summer spy meeting picture
an old picture from the summer meeting of retired spies	= an old summer retired spy meeting picture

Instruction

Abbreviate the phrases in the table (10 points)

1	A CD with old pictures	
2	A bottle of fizzy mineral water	
3	The song at the end of the film	
4	A short summary of the latest news	
5	The picture on the cover of the book	
6	A webpage for fans of reggae music	
7	The end of the season for water skiing	
8	A large cup of hot coffee from McDonald's	
9	A box with round bags of green Chinese tea	
10	A small sample of sand from the shore of Lake Michigan	

(Author: Prof. dr hab. Leszek Berezowski IFA)



TASK 6: CLIPPINGS

Group no.: **School:**

Participants:

4.
 5.
 6.

Information

English is known for many words which have been or can be cut short. For example in **administrator** the end can be cut off to create **admin**, in **telephone** the beginning can be dropped to create **phone** and **fridge** in fact is the mid part of **refrigerator**. All such examples are called clippings.

Instruction

Please try to reconstruct the missing parts of the clippings listed in the table below (**20 points**):

#	Clippings	Original words
0	info	information
1	photo	
2	exam	
3	lab	
4	pro	
5	teen	
6	bio	
7	hippo	
8	croc	
9	auto	
10	memo	
11	gym	
12	bro	
13	corp	
14	disco	
15	ref	
16	fan	
17	decaf	
18	deli	
19	carb	
20	pub	

(Author: Prof. dr hab. Leszek Berezowski IFA)