

中華大學 104 學年度外國語文學系三年級轉學考試
英文閱讀測驗

I. Spell it in English

The **merging** of the languages gave birth to Old English (an early form of the Modern English we know), and a Latin alphabet replaced, with a few exceptions, the ancient Germanic alphabet. In the ninth century, the conquering Norsemen from Scandinavia added their pinch of language spice, as did the French in the 11th century.

By the 14th century, English, with its mix of at least five languages, had **evolved** into what is called Middle English and had become Britain's official language. At that time, however, its spellings were far from consistent or rational. Many dialects had developed over the centuries, and sometimes people adopted the spelling used in one part of the country and the pronunciation used in another. For instance, today we use the western English spellings for *busy* and *bury*, but we give the first the London pronunciation *bizzy* and the second the Kentish pronunciation *berry*. Of course, this all happened when English was primarily a spoken language, and only scholars knew how to read and write. Even they appear to have been quite **indifferent** to matters of consistency in spelling and were known to spell the same word several different ways in a single sentence.

By the late 16th century and early 17th century, some progress had been made in standardizing spelling due to the work of various scholars. By then, however, English spelling was far from a simple phonetic system. For one thing, word pronunciation had changed too rapidly for a truly phonetic spelling to keep up. Also, English had borrowed from many languages and ended up having far too many sounds (more than 40) for the 26 letters in its Roman alphabet. By the time printing houses finally began to agree on standard spellings, many of these written forms were only a shadow of their spoken selves. In other words, spelling and pronunciation sometimes had little in common.

Finally, in 1755, Samuel Johnson gave English its first great dictionary. His choice of spellings may not have always been the best or the easiest, but the book helped to make the spellings of most English words uniform. Eventually, people became aware of the need for "correct" spelling. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, Noah Webster was standardizing American English in his American Dictionary of the English language and American Spelling Book.

As long as the world goes around, language will continue to change. New words will be added to English; spellings will be altered. But because people are most comfortable with the familiar, it's not likely that we'll ever see a major change in the way most words are spelled. Anyway, what would we do without the challenge of English spelling?

Choose the most appropriate answer to the following questions

1. ____ The **merging** of the different languages gave birth to Old English.
(a) crossing (b) confusion (c) blending (d) complication
2. ____ By the 14th century, English, with its mix of languages, had **evolved** into what is called Middle English.
(a) improved (b) appeared (c) spread (d) developed
3. ____ Even scholars were quite **indifferent** to matters of consistency in spelling and were known to spell the same word several different ways in a single sentence.
(a) uncaring about (b) superior about (c) unsocial about (d) confused about
4. ____ What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
(a) By the time English had become a written language, the influence of several languages and dialects had made spelling and pronunciation very inconsistent
(b) Scholars didn't help the problem of spelling inconsistency, because they often spelled words several different ways.
(c) In Britain, English words had different spellings and pronunciations in different parts of the country.
(d) By the 14th century, English had evolved into Middle English and was Britain's official language.

5. _____ The third paragraph is mostly about _____.
 - (a) how progress had been made in standardizing spelling by the 17th century
 - (b) why English spelling and pronunciation were often very different
 - (c) how English had many more sounds than it had letters in its alphabet
 - (d) why printing houses played a role in standardizing spelling
6. _____ The last paragraph is mainly concerned with _____.
 - (a) the work of the simplified spelling board
 - (b) why the call for spelling simplified spelling went out of fashion
 - (c) the many words that have been shortened by dropping useless letters
 - (d) the ongoing changes in the English language
7. _____ The reading implies that _____.
 - (a) conquering tribes forced the Britons to speak their languages.
 - (b) English was a “pure” language before the 14th century
 - (c) the influence of other languages made English a rich but complicated language
 - (d) When Britain made English its official language, it stopped foreign words from entering the language and making it even more complicated.
8. _____ From the reading, it can be concluded that _____.
 - (a) until the first dictionaries were written, even educated people weren’t overly concerned with the spelling of words.
 - (b) there was no real need for an English dictionary before Johnson wrote his in 1755.
9. _____ It can be inferred from the reading that _____.
 - (a) English spelling takes the natural course of language changes.
 - (b) thanks to many concerned people, spelling is simpler now than it was 200 years ago.
10. _____ The author’s tone is _____.
 - (a) informal (b) sentimental (c) insincere (d) argumentative

II.

Dear Professor Moriarty,

I would like to congratulate you on organizing such an excellent and informative workshop for our company. I know our staff learnt a great deal from it. Can you pass on my thanks to Doctor Stapleton for his fascinating talk on Staff Motivation? I realize how lucky we were that he was able to find the time for us. The feedback from the staff was very positive. Let’s hope we actually see an improvement in staff motivation as a result!

By the way, I’m missing my list of addresses of the delegates who attended. Did I happen to leave it in your office? It’s just that I haven’t seen it since our meeting on Friday. Thanks again for a great day,
Anne

1. _____ What is the main objective of the message?
 - A. to inform
 - B. to accuse
 - C. to make a request
 - D. to praise
2. _____ What can be implied about the workshop?
 - A. All the delegates were staff from the same company.
 - B. It included several talks.
 - C. It lasted three day.
 - D. Motivation was the only topic discussed.
3. _____ What can be implied about Dr. Stapleton?
 - A. He works in the same office as Anne.
 - B. He has a very busy schedule.
 - C. He is a leading expert on staff motivation.
 - D. Anne knows him better than Professor Moriarty does.
4. _____ What has happened to the address list?
 - A. Anne has lost it.
 - B. Anne has found it.

- C. Anne has sent it to Professor Moriarty.
- D. Anne has completed it.

III.

Dear Residents,

Due to the Fast and Furious cycling event on Sunday 14th March, this street will be closed to traffic from 6am until 5pm on this date. Please ensure that your car is not parked on the street at this time, otherwise it will be clamped and/or towed away. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Robert Johnson, Hsinchu Council

- 5. _____ Who is the letter to?
 - A. People who are attending the cycling event
 - B. Car owners living on one street
 - C. Homeowners who ride bicycles
 - D. Colleagues at Hsinchu Council
- 6. _____ What must residents do?
 - A. Tow their cars away
 - B. Park in a different street
 - C. Use their cars between 6am and 5pm
 - D. Co-operate with the cyclists at the event

IV.

Shopping is the best kind of therapy, and at Monroeville Mall we want to make your shopping experience as exciting and enjoyable as possible. We've got over 120 shops offering a massive range of high-quality and fashionable products. There are also over 20 cafes and restaurants for you to choose from so that you can unwind and feel refreshed before heading back to the shops! And it's right here in the city center, only 500 meters from the Westgate MRT station, so there's no need to drive. In order to ensure that the time you spend at Monroeville Mall is as enjoyable as possible, we've made sure that everything you need is on hand. There are shopper lockers where you can store your bags available in the South Annex; ample restrooms with baby changing facilities, and for your safety, security cameras are located throughout the mall. If you need any help finding your way around, information on travel, accommodation and entertainment, or advice on where to buy the things you need, come to our Customer Service desk on level three.

- 7. _____ Where is the text most likely to be from?
 - A. a mall brochure
 - B. a newspaper
 - C. a blog
 - D. a text book
- 8. _____ What does the text suggest is the best way to travel to the mall?
 - A. by car
 - B. on foot
 - C. by MRT
 - D. by bus
- 9. _____ What can be found in the South Annex?
 - A. restrooms
 - B. storage facilities
 - C. the Customer Services desk
 - D. a theatre
- 10. _____ Which of the following is NOT supplied at the customer services desk?
 - A. information about hotels
 - B. a place to store bags
 - C. details about entertainment
 - D. directions