

# Understanding Language: Variation and Change

## Teaching Plan

### What is this lesson about?

In this lesson pupils will learn to:

- Recognise some of the ways in which languages differ from each other
- Understand how these differences have developed over time
- See how languages can evolve from a common starting point in very different ways

### Terms needed

- Subject
- Pronoun
- Gender
- Case
- Word order

### Lesson structure (see accompanying slides)

- Introduction
  - Differences among languages
- Comparing English and Spanish
  - Subject pronouns
  - Gender agreement
  - Cases
  - Word order
- Language change
  - Looking at earlier stages of languages
- A.D. 1000: Old English and Old Spanish
  - More change in English than in Spanish
  - Gender agreement
  - Cases
- A.D. 200: Ingvaemonic and Late Latin
  - Differences between Spanish and Latin
- 500 B.C.: Proto-Germanic and Old Latin
  - Pronoun changes
  - Verb endings
  - Flexible word order
- 4000 B.C: Indo-European
  - A single starting point for many modern languages



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## Activities

- Ask pupils for details of any other languages that they might know
- Do these languages seem more like English, Spanish, Latin, etc.? In what ways?
- If any pupils know a non-Indo-European language (e.g. Chinese, Tamil, Arabic), discuss similarities and differences between these and the Indo-European languages examined.

