

## 9. Reading comprehension:

"Where do the languages that we speak in Spain come from?"

<b>Latin</b>	<b>Castilian</b>	<b>Catalan</b>	<b>Galician</b>	<b>Basque</b>
lupus	lobo	llop	lobo	osto
liber	libro	llibre	libro	liburu
manus	mano	má	man	eská
luna	luna	lluna	lúa	ilagi
lingua	lengua	lilingua	lengua	izkunza
caelum	cielo	cel	ceo	ceru

<b>Portuguese</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>English</b>
lobo	loup	wolf
livro	livre	book
mao	main	hand
lua	lune	moon
lengua	langue	language
ceu	ciel	sky

Look at the information on the table and answer the following questions:

1. Why are Castilian, Catalan and Galician so similar to Latin?

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2. Which of the languages spoken in Spain is most different to the others?

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3. Can you try to explain why?

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4. Why do you think that the word "liburu" in Basque language is similar to the rest?

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5. Why do you think Galician and Portuguese are so similar?

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6. Do Portuguese and French have a Latin origin too ?

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Why? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think that English comes from Latin?

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Why? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Can you find some words in English that have a Latin origin?

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9. How is this possible?

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10. Name the Spanish languages that are spoken nowadays in Spain .Put a tick if they come from Latin and a cross if they don't.

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# SPANISH LANGUAGES

Romans stayed in Spain for a long time. When they arrived in the Peninsula, they found different cities and peoples with different habits, cultures and languages.

The Romans spoke Latin, the official Italian language in the time, so they made everybody in their Empire speak Latin too. Latin became the international language of the time. So many cities and villages in all Europe started to speak Latin.

In Spain, the Romans conquered almost the entire Peninsula. In these conquered territories, people had to speak Latin, but they mixed it with their own original languages, and this is how Castilian, Galician, Portuguese and Catalan languages were born. This is also why they are so similar! Because of the Latin they all have in common.

These languages have changed since that period, but Latin is still present in the majority of their words.

What about the Basque language? Why is it so different to the rest of languages spoken in the Peninsula? Well, we said earlier that the Romans conquered 'almost' the entire Peninsula, but not quite! The Basque People, in the North, never surrendered to the Roman invaders. Therefore their language was never influenced by Latin.

Latin was the international language in Roman times. People from different countries and cultures could communicate by speaking this language. What would you say the international language is today?