

# SPEAKING YOUR LANGUAGE



## ACTIVITY 1

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read the content for this topic then answer the following questions to see how much you understand about what you read.

1. Language is a system of c\_\_\_\_\_.
2. List three things language is used for.
3. What is language characteristic of? (circle one)  
a. gender b. geographic region c. age d. economic status
4. What does the term 'mother tongue' mean?
5. What is semantics?
6. How many countries in the world is the official language English?
7. What word is used to describe someone who can speak more than two languages?
8. What is the scientist study of languages?
9. In which tow continents are the world's languages most spoken?
10. When is International Mother Language Day?



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## ACTIVITY 2

### Words borrowed from other languages

Many words in the English language have been borrowed from other languages. Can you match each word with the original language it comes from?

bully	African
chauffeur	American Indian
cosmonaut	Arabic
democracy	Chinese
fiesta	Dutch
hamburger	French
jungle	German
karaoke	Greek
kayak	Indian
lava	Italian
marmalade	Japanese
polka	Latin
safari	Polish
silk	Portuguese
stadium	Russian
zero	Spanish

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## ACTIVITY 3

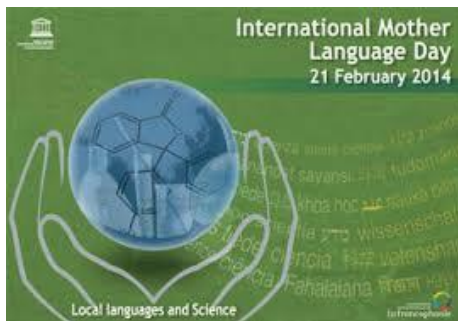
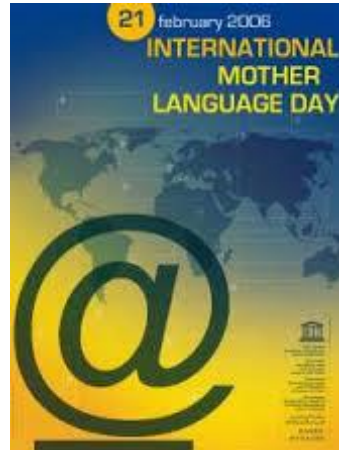
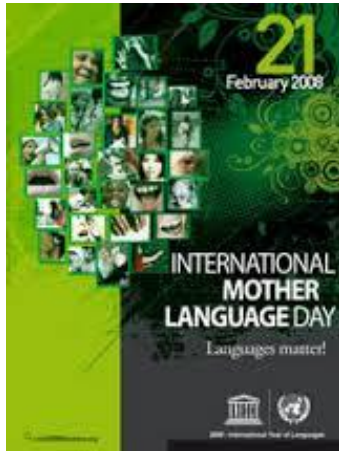
## International Mother Language Day

Design an advertisement for International Mother Language Day. Remember to include dates, briefly explain the purpose of the day and come up with an image that would support the message.

The theme for 2015 is

## Inclusion in and through education: Language counts.

### Examples of advertisements from previous years.



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## ACTIVITY 4

## WORDS AT WORK

In Wordy News this week we defined the expression ‘turn of phrase’ which was used in the following way:



Listed are some Australian turns of phrase.  
Explain what you think each one means.

Crooked as a dog's hind leg

There's kangaroos loose in the top paddock

He / she's got a mouth like a torn pocket

She'll be apples

## Taking a sickie

Look like a stunned mullet

## Take an early mark

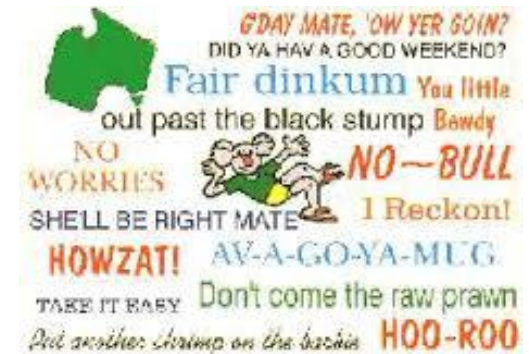
## Away with the pixies

## Doing your block

Fair crack of the whip

Fair dinkum

His/ her blood's worth bottling



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## ACTIVITY 5

### CHECK IT OUT

Go to the website [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com) and under the 'Languages of the World' section find Australia (in the Pacific list) to answer these questions.

What is the given population of Australia?

What is the Principal Language listed?

What is the deaf population according to the website?

What is the number of individual languages listed for Australia?

How many of these languages are considered to have fallen completely out of use?

Under Australia, Languages tab, Status, find:

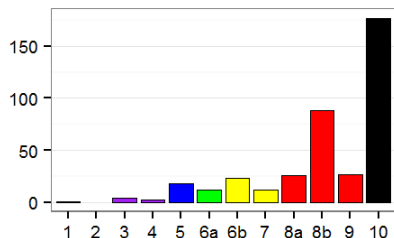
- 3 languages that are extinct
- 3 languages that are nearly extinct
- 3 languages that are developing

TRUE or FALSE: The majority of languages in Australia are associated with Aboriginal languages.

What is the alternate name for Australian Sign Language?

Using the Northern Australia map make a list of three languages beginning with K found in Far North Queensland.

### Profile of language status for Australia



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## ACTIVITY 6

### NEWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Use the following notes to write a brief story about

### Kids not learning vital speaking skills

language skills, vital, young children, first years of school

senior speech pathologist, children talking less

technology part of their lives

children without essential speaking skills

difficult to express thoughts, expressions in words, understand instructions remember things

children develop language skills through talking, reading and interacting with others

Re-read the story brief on the NiE page to compare your story.