

MAKING A GOOD SCRIPT GREAT ENGLISH EDITION Handbook

Making a good script great english edition: A Comprehensive Guide to Elevating Your Screenplay

Crafting a compelling script is an art form that combines storytelling, character development, pacing, and dialogue. However, even the most promising initial drafts can benefit from refinement and polishing to reach their full potential. Whether you're an aspiring screenwriter or a seasoned professional, understanding the nuances of making a good script great, especially in the context of the English edition, can significantly enhance the quality of your work and increase its chances of success.

In this article, we will explore essential strategies, tips, and best practices to transform a decent script into an outstanding screenplay. From structural improvements to dialogue refinement, and from cultural considerations to polishing for English audiences, this guide aims to provide comprehensive insights to elevate your script to the next level.

Understanding the Foundations of a Good Script

Before diving into the specifics of making your script great, it's crucial to understand what constitutes a good script in the first place.

Key Elements of a Good Script

- Engaging Storytelling: A captivating plot that holds the audience's interest from start to finish.
- Strong Characters: Well-developed characters with clear motivations and arcs.
- Clear Structure: Proper act division, pacing, and rhythm.
- Effective Dialogue: Natural, purposeful, and character-specific conversations.
- Visual and Audio Cues: Directions that enhance storytelling without overwhelming.

Recognizing these core elements allows you to identify areas for improvement and set goals for elevating your screenplay.

Structural Improvements for a More Impactful Script

A well-structured script forms the backbone of a great screenplay. Even a good story can falter if the

structure is weak or disorganized.

Refining Your Script's Structure

- Outline Thoroughly Before Writing
- Map out your story arc, key plot points, and character developments.
- Use tools like beat sheets or storyboards to visualize pacing.
- Ensure a Clear Three-Act Format
 - Act 1: Setup, introduce characters, setting, and conflict.
 - Act 2: Confrontation, development of conflicts, character growth.
 - Act 3: Resolution, tying up storylines, climax.
- Maintain Consistent Pacing
 - Use shorter scenes for action or tension.
 - Longer scenes for emotional depth or exposition.
- Incorporate Turning Points
 - Key moments that propel the story forward or shift the narrative.
- Use Proper Scene Transitions
 - Smooth shifts to keep the audience engaged and maintain flow.

Common Structural Pitfalls to Avoid

- Overloading the script with unnecessary scenes.
- Failing to establish stakes early.
- Rushing the climax or resolution.
- Losing focus or introducing extraneous subplots.

Enhancing Dialogue for Authenticity and Impact

Dialogue is a powerful tool to reveal character, advance the plot, and create emotional resonance.

Tips for Writing Better Dialogue

- Make Speech Character-Specific
- Tailor vocabulary, tone, and rhythm to each character's background.
- Show, Don't Tell
- Use subtext and implied meaning instead of explicit exposition.
- Keep It Concise
- Avoid long-winded speeches; make every line purposeful.
- Use Natural Language
- Mimic real speech patterns, including pauses, slang, and interruptions.
- Read Dialogue Out Loud
- Helps identify unnatural phrasing and improves flow.

Dialogue Editing Checklist

- Does each line serve a purpose?
- Is the dialogue consistent with the character's voice?
- Does it reveal necessary information subtly?
- Is it concise and impactful?

Cultural and Language Considerations in the English Edition

Adapting your script for an English-speaking audience involves more than translation; it requires cultural sensitivity and linguistic accuracy.

Localization vs. Translation

- Translation: Converting text from one language to another while maintaining meaning.
- Localization: Adapting cultural references, idioms, humor, and context to resonate with the

target audience.

Tips for Effective Localization

- Use idioms and expressions familiar to English audiences.
- Avoid cultural references that may not translate well.
- Adjust humor, slang, and colloquialisms for relatability.
- Be mindful of cultural sensitivities and stereotypes.

Ensuring Language Quality

- Hire professional editors or proofreaders fluent in English.
- Use tools like Grammarly or Hemingway Editor to catch grammatical issues.
- Read your script aloud to identify awkward phrasing or errors.
- Consider feedback from native English speakers familiar with the genre.

Polishing Your Script for Maximum Impact

Once the structural and linguistic elements are in place, the polishing phase is vital to elevate your script from good to great.

Steps for Effective Script Polishing

- Cut Excess
 - Remove redundant scenes, characters, or dialogue.
 - Tighten pacing and improve clarity.
- Enhance Visual Storytelling
 - Incorporate vivid descriptions that evoke imagery.
 - Use action lines to complement dialogue and advance the story.
- Refine Character Arcs

- Ensure characters evolve in meaningful ways.
- Confirm motivations are consistent and compelling.

- Seek Feedback

- Share with trusted peers, mentors, or script consultants.
- Be open to constructive criticism.

- Iterate and Revise

- Make multiple passes focusing on different aspects: structure, dialogue, pacing, etc.

Common Mistakes to Avoid During Polishing

- Over-editing, leading to loss of original voice.
- Ignoring feedback or becoming resistant to change.
- Neglecting formatting standards.

Utilizing Resources and Tools to Make Your Script Great

Various resources can aid in transforming your initial draft into a polished, professional screenplay.

Recommended Tools and Resources

- Screenwriting Software: Final Draft, Celtx, Fade In.
- Style Guides: The Screenwriter's Bible, The Complete Guide to Standard Script Formats.
- Workshops and Courses: MasterClass, Udemy, Sundance Labs.
- Feedback Platforms: Stage 32, Script Revolution.

Professional Services

- Script consultants or coaches.
- Professional editors specializing in screenplays.
- Language editors for English localization.

Conclusion: Turning Good Scripts into Great Scripts

Making a good script great, especially in the English edition, requires a combination of solid storytelling fundamentals, meticulous editing, cultural awareness, and ongoing refinement. By focusing on structure, dialogue, cultural adaptation, and polishing, you can elevate your screenplay to meet industry standards and resonate deeply with audiences.

Remember, excellence in screenwriting is a process?be patient, stay open to feedback, and continually seek to improve. With dedication and the right approach, your script can stand out as a compelling, polished, and impactful piece of storytelling that captivates viewers worldwide.

Final Tips for Success

- Read extensively to understand diverse storytelling techniques.
- Watch acclaimed films to analyze their scripts.
- Join writing groups or forums for feedback and support.
- Keep practicing and rewriting?great scripts are often rewritten multiple times.

Embark on your journey to making a good script great today, and bring your storytelling vision to life with confidence and professionalism.

Making a Good Script Great: An In-Depth Analysis of the English Edition

In the world of storytelling, whether in film, television, theater, or digital media, the script stands as the backbone of any successful production. A well-crafted script not only conveys a compelling narrative but also evokes emotion, maintains pacing, and provides clear characters and themes. When transitioning a script into its English edition, the challenge elevates: it isn't merely about translation but about preserving nuance, tone, and cultural relevance while enhancing clarity and impact. Making a good script great in English requires a blend of linguistic skill, creative insight, and technical precision. This article explores the essential elements, strategies, and best practices involved in elevating a script from good to exceptional within the context of English language adaptation.

Understanding the Foundations of a Good Script

Before delving into how to improve a script, it's crucial to understand what constitutes its initial "goodness." A good script typically exhibits:

- Clear Structure: A well-organized beginning, middle, and end, with a compelling setup, conflict,

and resolution.

- Engaging Characters: Characters with distinct voices, motivations, and development arcs.
- Consistent Tone and Style: A unified voice that matches the genre and intended audience.
- Effective Dialogue: Natural-sounding speech that reveals character and advances the plot.
- Pacing and Rhythm: Proper timing of scenes and beats to maintain viewer interest.

Recognizing these elements provides a baseline for identifying areas where the script can be refined and elevated.

Key Challenges in Translating and Adapting Scripts into English

Transforming a script into a polished English edition involves specific challenges:

Cultural Nuances and Context

- Idiomatic Expressions: Phrases that may not translate directly and require localization.
- Cultural References: Adjusting or replacing references unfamiliar to English-speaking audiences.
- Humor and Wordplay: Ensuring jokes or puns maintain their humor across languages.

Maintaining Character Voice and Tone

- Ensuring characters' personalities remain authentic.
- Preserving the stylistic tone established in the original script.

Technical Constraints

- Adhering to industry standards for formatting.
- Meeting runtime and scene requirements.

Overcoming these challenges demands a nuanced approach that respects the original material while optimizing it for English-speaking viewers.

Strategies to Make a Good Script Great in English

Transforming a good script into a great one involves multiple layers of editing, rewriting, and refining. Here are key strategies:

- Deep Cultural and Contextual Adaptation

- Localization Over Literal Translation: Instead of word-for-word translation, adapt idioms, references, and humor to resonate with English audiences.
- Consult Cultural Experts: Engage native speakers or cultural consultants to ensure authenticity.
- Preserve Intent: Focus on maintaining the original emotional and thematic intent rather than exact wording.

- Sharpening Dialogue and Character Voice

- Character-Specific Language: Ensure each character has a distinct voice that aligns with their background and personality.
- Natural Speech Patterns: Dialogue should mimic natural conversation, avoiding overly formal or artificial phrasing.
- Subtext and Implication: Use subtext to add depth, making dialogue more nuanced and engaging.

- Refining Structure and Pacing

- Scene Breakdown: Evaluate each scene's purpose, eliminating redundancies or awkward transitions.
- Pacing Adjustments: Balance dialogue, action, and pauses to sustain momentum.
- Climactic Build-up: Ensure key moments and turning points are effectively highlighted.

- Enhancing Visual and Sensory Descriptions

- Vivid Descriptions: Make scene settings, character appearances, and actions more evocative without overloading the script.
- Show, Don't Tell: Use visual cues and actions to convey information rather than exposition-heavy dialogue.

- Incorporating Feedback and Iterative Revisions

- Peer Review: Seek feedback from writers, directors, or actors for insights.
- Test Readings: Conduct table reads to identify awkward lines or pacing issues.
- Multiple Drafts: Embrace revision as an essential process?rarely is the first draft perfect.

Technical Aspects of Script Enhancement

Beyond content, technical refinement can elevate a script significantly:

Proper Formatting

- Use industry-standard formatting to ensure clarity and professionalism.
- Clearly distinguish dialogue, action, parentheticals, and scene descriptions.

Clarity and Conciseness

- Remove redundancies and verbosity.
- Use precise language to clarify intentions and avoid ambiguity.

Consistency

- Maintain consistent character names, terminology, and stylistic choices throughout the script.

Case Studies: From Good to Great

Case Study 1: Adapting a Comedy Script

A comedy script originally written in a non-English language relied heavily on puns and cultural references. The initial translation failed to elicit laughs because humor didn't translate directly. By localizing jokes?replacing references with culturally relevant equivalents and rewriting puns?writers infused the script with authenticity and humor, elevating it from merely functional to genuinely funny.

Case Study 2: Enhancing a Drama's Emotional Impact

An emotionally charged drama featured dialogue that felt flat in English. Through deep character analysis and rewriting lines to incorporate subtext and nuanced language, the script became more layered. The addition of sensory descriptions and visual storytelling cues also heightened emotional engagement, transforming a decent script into a compelling piece.

Final Tips for Making a Good Script Great in English

- Stay True to the Original: Respect the core themes and messages.
- Prioritize Clarity: Ensure dialogue and descriptions are clear and purposeful.
- Emphasize Character Development: Characters should evolve and feel authentic.
- Use Feedback Effectively: Incorporate insights from diverse perspectives.
- Focus on Visual Storytelling: Remember that film and TV are visual mediums?show rather than tell.
- Be Patient and Persistent: Refinement is an iterative process that often requires multiple revisions.

Conclusion

Making a good script great in its English edition is an art that balances linguistic mastery, cultural sensitivity, and creative storytelling. It involves more than translation?it?s about adaptation, refinement, and enhancement. By understanding the foundational elements of strong storytelling, addressing the unique challenges of language and culture, and applying strategic editing and revision techniques, writers and translators can elevate scripts, ensuring they resonate powerfully with English-speaking audiences. Ultimately, a great script is one that captivates, moves, and endures?an achievement made possible through meticulous craftsmanship and a deep understanding of both language and story.

QuestionAnswer What are the key elements to focus on when making a good script great in the English edition? Key elements include strong character development, engaging dialogue, a clear plot structure, consistent tone, and polished language to enhance readability and impact. How can I improve the language and style of my script in the English edition? You can improve language and style by editing for clarity, varying sentence structures, using vivid descriptions, and ensuring proper grammar and punctuation throughout your script. What common mistakes should I avoid when editing a script for the English edition? Avoid overusing clichés, inconsistent character voices, grammatical errors, passive voice, and excessive exposition that can detract from the script?s engagement. Are there specific formatting guidelines I should follow to make my script stand out in the English edition? Yes, adhering to industry-standard formatting for scripts?such as proper scene headings, character names, dialogue formatting, and stage directions?helps ensure clarity and professionalism. What resources or tools can help me elevate my script from good to great in the English edition? Utilize screenwriting software like Final Draft or Celtx, consult style guides like the Chicago Manual of Style, seek feedback from peers or professional editors, and study successful scripts to improve your craft.

Related keywords: script writing, screenplay tips, storytelling techniques, script editing, dialogue development, script formatting, character creation, plot structure, editing tips, writing improvement

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes—Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450–1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.
- **Middle English (c. 1150–1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.
- **Early Modern English (c. 1500–1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.
- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to William Shakespeare's plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language's development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and

idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages
- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages
- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard
- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world's primary lingua franca—an auxiliary language used for

international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms
- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless

opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English
- Learn English online
- English language development
- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes—namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450–1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like *Beowulf*.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence

increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150-1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar, making literature more accessible.
- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.
- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and

around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.

- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation
- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation
- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)
- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English's structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English's significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today's interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

Question What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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