

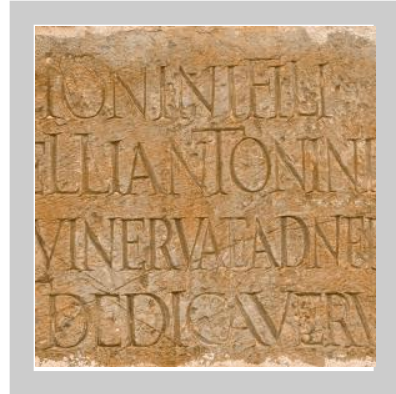
Name _____

Date _____

Latin as a Second Language

Many people believe that it is beneficial to learn a second language. Knowing two languages makes it easier to travel to foreign countries, communicate with people from other cultures, and conduct international business. Even if you do not learn to speak another language fluently, studying a language is a useful academic exercise because it requires concentration and logical thinking.

Some people choose to learn Latin, which is a dead language. Latin has not been spoken for over a thousand years. Nevertheless, schools in many different countries offer courses in Latin. Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin. Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages. If you already know Latin, languages like Italian and Spanish will be easier to learn. Nonetheless, if you choose to study a language that no one speaks anymore, many of the practical advantages of learning a second language are erased. This means you should think carefully about which language you choose to learn.



- 1) The author apparently believes that Latin is
 - A. completely useless as a second language
 - B. less useful than spoken languages
 - C. useful for English speakers but no one else
 - D. more useful than other dead languages, such as ancient Greek

- 2) Based on information in paragraph 1, it can be understood that the word **beneficial** belongs to which of the following word groups?
 - A. healthy, wholesome, nutritional
 - B. wise, smart, intelligent
 - C. advantageous, helpful, valuable
 - D. common, usual, customary

- 3) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that a "dead language" is a language that is
 - A. over a thousand years old
 - B. not spoken anymore
 - C. useful for learning modern vocabulary
 - D. the basis for other languages

- 4) Someone who knows Latin will likely be able to
- I. think logically
 - II. learn Spanish easier
 - III. communicate with foreigners
- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III
- 5) According to the author, Latin can be helpful for English speakers because it is
- A. the basis for all of the modern Romance languages
- B. a way to conduct international business
- C. taught in schools in many different countries
- D. a way to help build their vocabulary
- 6) As used in paragraph 2, something that is **derived** must
- A. come before something else
- B. come from something else
- C. be the same as something else
- D. replace something else
- 7) The main purpose of this passage is to
- A. educate the reader about the advantages and disadvantages of learning a second language
- B. explain that although learning Latin has advantages it is a less useful choice
- C. highlight the reasons why some people think learning Latin is a good idea
- D. argue against the continuation of teaching Latin in schools around the world

8) The author writes, “If you already know Latin, languages like Italian and Spanish will be easier to learn.” Assess this argument. Is this a strong enough reason to learn Latin instead of simply learning Spanish first? Why or why not?
