



LIFE·PAC®

Language Arts

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Alpha Omega Publications®

**LANGUAGE ARTS 1210**  
**LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE REVIEW**

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## ENGLISH 1210

God gave people language with which to express themselves and to communicate with others. Some people communicate most effectively with their voices, but others use the written word to express themselves. Those who write may extend factual information to their readers, or they may express their thoughts, experiences, and feelings in poetry or in stories.

In this LIFE PAC® you will review those means of expressing ideas. You will review some of the literature of great writers and you will write your own expository essay, poem, and short story.

### OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. You should be able:

1. Explain theories of language development.
2. Define words in relation to their prefixes and suffixes.
3. Explain the method of reading with comprehension.
4. Identify specific elements of poetry and short story.
5. Identify the Anglo-Saxon literary forms.
6. Explain the importance of feudalism and the church as reflected by Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.
7. Identify characters and selections from the *Canterbury Tales*.
8. Identify the literary forms and devices used in English poetry and prose.



# I. LANGUAGE

The study of language includes the study of words as they originated, as they are used correctly today, as they are used in sentences and paragraphs, and as they are used to convey meaning. The study of language is the study of communication in its many forms.

In this section you will review language by re-examining words, expository writing, sentence structure, grammar, and the techniques of reading with understanding. You will also review the methods of gathering information from written sources.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain theories of language development.
2. Define words in relation to their prefixes and suffixes.
3. Explain the method of reading with comprehension.
4. Identify specific elements of poetry and short story.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words** to enhance your learning success in this section.

conducive

pose

subtle

enhance

prevail

theorize

impose

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFE PAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

## WORDS

Words are the elements by which people think, speak, and write. Words are the most common form of communication. They also indicate **subtleties** about the communicator, such as his level of education, his native language, and his comfort in using the language.

The origin of words and language provides a basis for understanding word forms, grammar, and meaning in language today. The words people use to communicate ideas are a conscious or subconscious choice indicating sophistication of thought and knowledge of language.

**Origins.** From the earliest times, people have **theorized** about the origin of language. Indian legends credit Veracochoa, god and creator of the Inca, with the establishment of language. The Scandinavians believed that only the gods were able to communicate in words. The gods eventually gave the gift of speech to the people.

The Bible, too, associates communication with God. God spoke to the beings He created, according to the Bible. In the account of the Creation, Adam spoke to God and understood God's words.

Some recent theories about the origin of language are based on Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, which presented people as descendants of ape-like creatures. The apes

developed primitive methods of communicating with each other. According to Darwin, these methods descended to man and became the complex language and reasoning of modern civilization.

Man's ability to reason and communicate with complexity depends on the size and organization of his brain. Man's brain is larger than the brain of an ape. Man's brain is also organized so that specific cognitive skills and motor skills are located on specific sides of the brain. These skills are associated with speech. Man's brain also contains an area through which run nerves that connect vision, speech, and motor control. Scientists believe that apes do not have these areas in their brains.

Other theories of language origin are the "bow wow" theory, the "pooh-pooh" theory, and the "yo-he-ho" theory. The "bow wow" theory assumes that first words were imitations of animal cries and other natural sounds. The "pooh-pooh" theory says that the first words were exclamations of emotion and later became connected with the object or situation that caused the exclamation of emotion. The "yo-he-ho" theory supposes that speech began with the rhythmic chants of people working together or with the gestures and songs of children at play.

When taken together, these theories may account for the development of some primitive languages. The theories, however, do not account for the complex grammar or language changes that **prevail** in modern language. Modern linguists believe that in the primitive stages of language development, sounds were strung together and no distinction was made between sounds and words. Vocabulary, they believe, consisted of words for emotions and for specific items and general categories.

Linguists continue to study the origin of language for definite answers to questions about its beginning. The origin of many individual languages, however, can be traced with accuracy. English developed from a Germanic language, which had developed from Indo-European languages. These languages and others became the "language of the land" as one country conquered another country and **imposed** its language on the conquered people.

 **Complete these activities.**

1.1 List three theories of the origin of language.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

1.2 Describe each of the theories listed in 1.1.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1.3 List two legends about the origin of language.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_