Language Families

Which of the languages shown here do you know = as speak the language, or know about the language?

➔ see Lara's Journey across Europe, p.3

Notes on language families. Do you know what language families are?

Introduce the vocabulary term language family.

A language family is a "group of languages with a common ancestry and similar words." Tell students that Indo-European is the largest and most widespread language family.
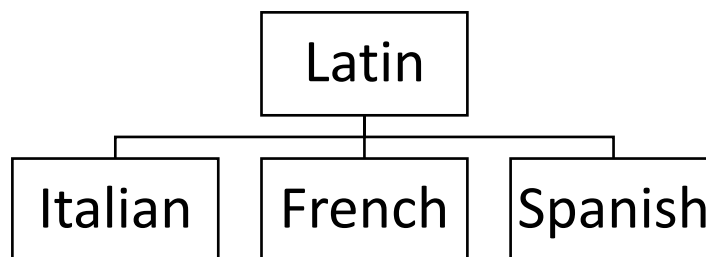
Why are we looking at languages?

- Comparing languages lets us see what languages have in common.
- Comparing languages also lets us see how and why languages differ
- Understanding reasons for these similarities and differences can reveal patterns = helps us learn a language
- The more you know about these patterns, the easier it is to learn them

One of the most important ways to classify languages is in terms of their relationship with one another.

- Over time, all languages change

- When a language changes enough, it can become a separate language, whose speakers are no longer able to understand each other

- One of the best-known examples of this process is Latin

- Latin gradually developed from a single language into all the modern Romance languages, such as Italian, French, and Spanish

- Because Italy, France and Spain are so far apart, people in each place wouldn't know how people in the other places spoke

EXAMPLE

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                    ┌──────────┐
                    │  Latin   │
                    └──────────┘
          ┌──────────────┼──────────────┐
    ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐
    │ Italian  │   │ French   │   │ Spanish  │
    └──────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────┘
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Italian, French and Spanish are <u>sister languages</u> of

Which languages do you think belong to the Slavic language family?

The Romance?

The Germanic?

➔ see Lara's Journey across Europe page 51 (language tree)

Audio Files for Lara's Journey:

https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/languagejourney/Sounds/tabid/3224/Default.aspx

Group Work/Pair Work:

Page 35: No yes or no (Irish) Page 45: How many ways are there to describe rain? (Galician)
Page 11: What is so special about Turkish? Page 12: What is special about Azerbaijani?
Page 26: What can speakers of Serbian use really well? (Serbian) Page 13: Baque is an only child
Page 32: Oh no, don't get it mixed up. (Albanian) Page 33: What's similar and also interesting? (Bulgarian)
Page 17: Romanians are fond of vowels. Page 18: Czechs not so much
Page 8: French numbers Page 30: Another way to count.