

## **5. NORMAN INFLUENCE - The Battle of Hastings**

- Listen to the recording and correct the mistakes in the text (spelling, dates, grammar, vocabulary etc)

- **Listening comprehension**

1. T/F/NG: After the Norman conquest Old French became the language of the clergy and Latin fell into oblivion
  2. T/F/NG: The Normans introduced new French words into the language
  3. T/F/NG: Middle English developed from Old English and Old French
  4. T/F/NG: Only the Normans were allowed to eat meat

#### **• Grammar and Vocabulary:**

**1. Match the words and phrasal verbs on the left with their synonyms of French origin on the right**

Call off – carry out – give up – turn down – cut down on –  
put up – answer – ask – put off – put out – look forward to –  
make up – pop round – drop in – drop out – tell off – faith –  
harbour – fall – behaviour – worthy – wild – belly – gift  
valuable – reprimand – stomach – stop participating – execute  
– visit – extinguish – port – savage – reply anticipate – invent  
– postpone – tolerate – autumn – reduce – present – belief –  
demand – visit – manner – cancel – surrender – reject

**2. Which of the following would you *NOT* be served as a meal?**

- a) pig      b) beef      c) swine      d) veal      e) deer      f) flesh      g) meat      h) game

## **Norman influence - The Battle of Hastings**

After William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, invaded and conquered England in 1066 AD with his armies and became king, he brought his nobles, who spoke French, to form the new government. Old French took over as the language of the court, administration, and culture. Latin was mostly used as a spoken language, especially that of the Church. Meanwhile, the English language, as the language of the now lower class, was considered a vulgar meringue.

Over the past 300-400 years the Old Norman French of the cooling classes blended with the Old English of the native population to form what is now known as Middle English - much more grammatically complex than Old English but further enriched in vocabulary by the addition of about 10,000 words of Old French.

Modern English has a wealth of synonyms – we can still be *loving* (English) or *amorous* (French), *angry* (English) or *famished* (French), *stern* (English) or *severe* (French), *motherly* (English) or *maternal* (French)

Because the English underclass cooked four the Norman upper class, the words for most domestic animals are English (*ox, cow, calf, ship, swine, deer*) while the words for the meats derived from them are French (*beef, veal, mutton, pork, capon, venison*).

## **6. MODERN ENGLISH AND BASIC CHARACTERISTICS**

- Listen to the recording and fill in the blanks.

### • Listening comprehension

1. T/F/NG: Adjectives are not declined for case in Modern English, though they were in Old English
  2. T/F/NG: Modern English makes use of gender in pronouns
  3. T/F/NG: All adjectives change in the comparative and superlative forms

### • Grammar and vocabulary

- 1.** Which of the following verbs can be used as nouns?  
**2.** Which of the following adjectives can be used as verbs?  
**3.** Which of the following prepositions can be used as verbs?

look – log – deepen – bow – row — breathe  
empty – wide – thin – thick – damp – nice – fine  
down – for – up – before – at – near – with

4. “*lifting a thumb*” means:

- a)** make no effort at all                            **b)** read quickly  
**c)** not help someone do something                **d)** raise the short, thick finger on the side of your hand

5. “*thumbing a lift*” means:

- b) read quickly
  - d) raise the short, thick finger on the side of your hand

## **Modern English and Basic Characteristics**

During the \_\_\_\_\_, English words have been slowly simplified from the inflected variable forms, towards invariable forms. Verbs have very few inflections (only the 3rd person -s in the present tense form) and usually no inflection \_\_\_\_\_ forms. English does not assign grammatical \_\_\_\_\_: masculine, feminine, or neuter to nouns and therefore adjectives do not change according to the noun e.g., *a good deal, a good thing*, compared to Italian: *un buon affare, una buona cosa*. The only change to adjectives \_\_\_\_\_ comparative and superlative forms when the adjective is short: *hot – hotter - hottest*.

Flexibility of function has grown over the \_\_\_\_\_ consequence of the loss of inflections. Words formerly distinguished as nouns or verbs by differences in their forms are now often \_\_\_\_\_ verbs.

One can speak of “*booking a place*” or “*placing a book*”, “*lifting a thumb*” or “*giving a race*” or “*racing someone to the corner*”. It is also possible to use nouns as adjectives: *dead round*. For example, the word “*round*”

- For example, the word  
**Adjective**: a *round* table

**Adjective:** a *round* table  
**Noun:** It's your turn to buy the next *round*

**Noun:** It's your turn to  
**Verb:** We rounded the

**Adverb:** She turned *round* and ran back to the house.

**Adverb:** She turned *round* and ran back to the  
**Preposition:** We travelled *round* the country.

**Preposition:** We travelled *round* the country.