

# Languages, Literacy and Communication

## English

### Y9 – MAKING WAVES

Definition: *An idiom meaning to cause a disturbance or controversy, as in, we've finally settled our differences, so please don't make waves. This expression alludes to causing turbulence in the water.*

# Y9 Making Waves

## Creative Challenge tasks

### Vlog



Adam Driver (Kylo Ren) is a former US marine. Watch his TED talk .

Record your own **TED talk on what heroism** means to you.

### Advert

Design or record a recruitment advert for the **armed forces, teaching or medical profession.**

### Letter

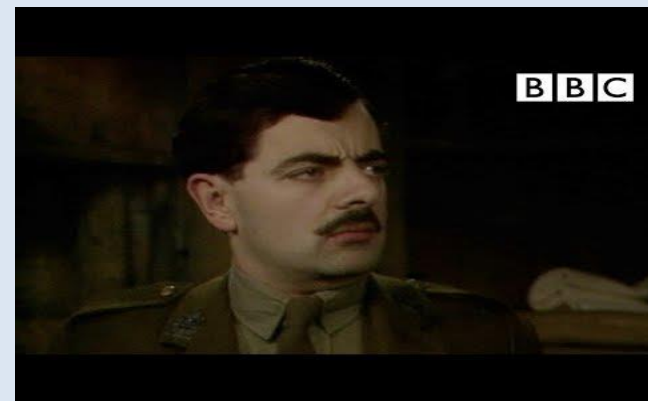
Write a letter from the trenches (or alternative war zone) to a loved one or

### Article

Write and produce an informative newspaper article about a current international conflict

### Playscript

Watch the clip from *Black Adder GoesForth*. Write a **satirical scene** which highlights the futility of war.



# How has the English language evolved?

The English language is a result of the invasions of the island of Britain over many hundreds of years.

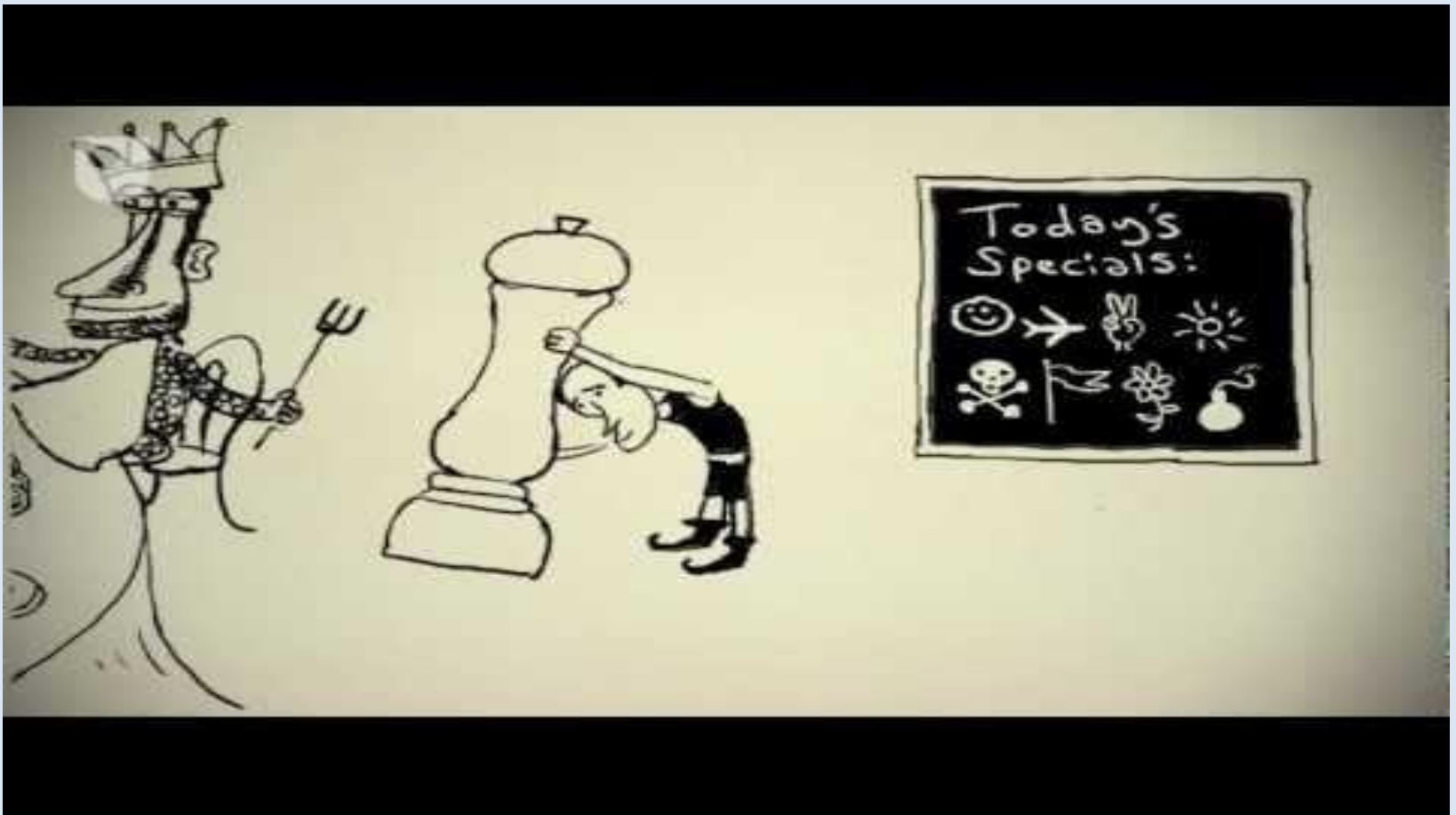


## Empty brain challenge!

The English language is made up of words borrowed from many other languages. How many different languages have had an influence on the development of English? List the ones you know.

# How has the English language evolved?

1. Watch this video clip about how the English language has evolved.
2. Go back to your empty brain. How many languages can you include now? [The history of English \(combined\) - YouTube](#)





# Making Waves – 2020 Coronavirus lockdown

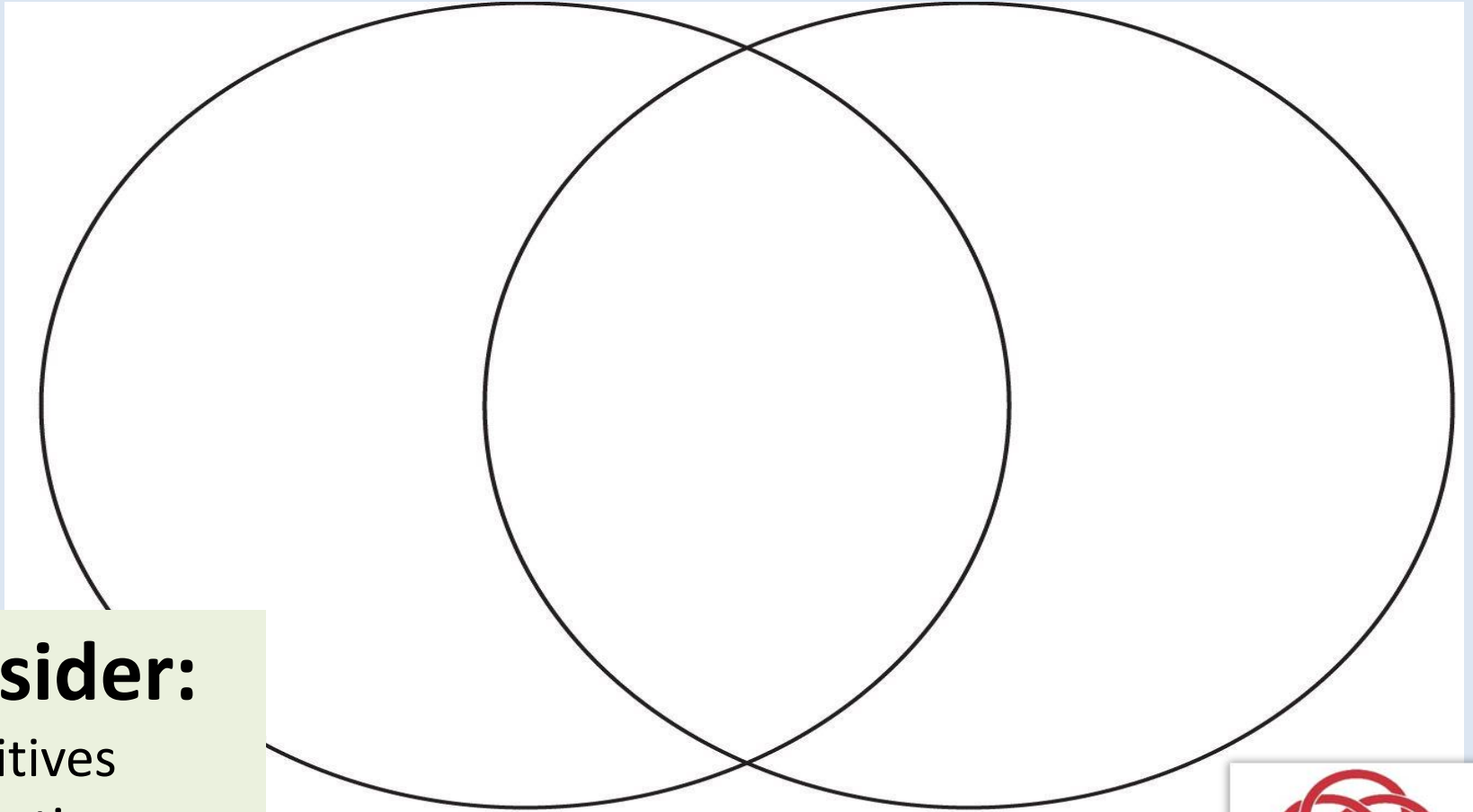
Listen to the two poems '**When just the tide went out**' and '**The Great Realisation**'

Both poems present the 2020 Coronavirus lockdown.

*And when all this is over, and our fragile  
world survives  
And I hope that God is caring now for the  
ones who gave their lives  
And I pray we'll find an answer, for my faith  
is cast in doubt  
And God draws back the heavens and all the  
stars come out  
And I'll remember mornings with nobody  
about  
When the shops were closed like Sunday, and  
just the tide went out*



How do the two poems '**When just the tide went out**' and '**The Great Realisation**' present the 2020 Coronavirus lockdown? Complete the Venn diagram, identifying any similarities and differences between the poems.



## Consider:

- Positives
- Negatives
- Images used

# Oracy Task: Discuss the following statements in pairs. Do you agree or disagree? Why?



1. War is glorious and gives people immortality.
2. Old men declare war, but it's the young men of the country who have to go and fight the battles.
3. War is Hell.
4. Being at war means you are fighting for what you believe in.
5. Anyone patriotic should go to war.
6. In modern times, we should be able to solve problems by talking them through.
7. It is an honourable thing to go to war.
8. To die fighting for your country is commendable.
9. If men go to war, it means that they are defending themselves and their country.
10. Modern warfare is brutal and unnecessary.
11. Fighting shows you are strong.
12. There are other ways to solve international arguments

# WW1 Living Conditions

## Look at the text *Rat Infestation*

1. Choose two words to describe how the soldiers felt about rats.
2. **Look at the text in the box below.** Underline **one** word which shows that the men were fed up with the rats.

Men, exasperated and afraid of these rats (which would even scamper across their faces in the dark), would attempt to rid the trenches of them by various methods: gunfire, with the bayonet, and even by clubbing them to death.

## Look at the whole text

3. Find 3 reasons why men wanted to get rid of rats.

## Weather Conditions

Another factor that depressed the troops was the abysmal weather. The bitter cold could claim digits to frostbite, and the heavy rain flooded the trenches and turned the soil into thick, slimy mud.

The trenches sometimes filled with water up to the waists of the less than impressed soldiers. This submersion of the feet for long periods of time led to a terrible condition called 'Trench Foot' - a fungal infection that could turn septic, resulting in amputation. Thus a clean dry pair of socks and a decent pair of boots was something akin to heaven on Earth.

*Our trenches are ankle deep in mud. In some places trenches are waist deep in water.*

(Private Livesay, from a letter to his parents, 1915)



## Rat Infestation

Rats in their millions infested trenches. There were two main types, the brown and the black rat. Both were despised but the brown rat was especially feared. Gorging themselves on human remains (grotesquely disfiguring them by eating their eyes and liver) they could grow to the size of a cat.

Men, exasperated and afraid of these rats (which would even scamper across their faces in the dark), would attempt to rid the trenches of them by various methods: gunfire, with the bayonet, and even by clubbing them to death. It was futile however, as a pair of rats could produce up to 900 offspring in a year, spreading infection and contaminating food.



## Look at the text *Weather Conditions*

1. 'The bitter cold could claim digits to frostbite'.

### What does this mean? Select one.

- The men were fed up with the cold
- It was so cold it hurt
- The temperature recordings were low
- Your fingers and toes would freeze

2. Look at the text in the box below. Select the phrase which explains why the men suffered from trench foot.

This submersion of the feet for long periods of time led to a terrible condition called 'Trench Foot' - a fungal infection that could turn septic, resulting in amputation.



# Diary Entry Task

Writing task: Imagine you are a WW1 soldier in the trenches on the Western Front. Write a diary entry, detailing your experiences of the conditions in the trenches.

**Generate success criteria now!**



# Diary Entry Task

How successful were you?

Use this checklist to self-assess your work.



## SUCCESS CRITERIA

### All

- ✓ Write one-two sides A4
- ✓ Paragraph your ideas – at least 3 main paragraphs
- ✓ Include your thoughts and feelings
- ✓ Use the first person 'I'

### Most

- ✓ Use punctuation for deliberate effect and use ambitious vocabulary
- ✓ Use a range of techniques: tripling, rhetorical question, dynamic verbs
- ✓ Adopt a convincing narrative voice
- ✓ Use a range of details/anecdotes to recount your experience

### Some

- ✓ Research the topic. Can you compare the German trench conditions with the British?
- ✓ Remember writing at the highest level will be convincing and almost error-free.