Comparing European Languages:
Germanic, Romance, & Slavic Language Families

Bonjour!
Ciao!
¡Hola!
Hallo!
здравствуйте!
<table>
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<th>Question</th>
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<td>What are the three main language families in Europe?</td>
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<td>What have Europeans done to try to solve the problem of so many languages?</td>
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<td>Which European language has the largest number of native speakers?</td>
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<td>What is a problem caused by many languages spoken in the same country?</td>
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European Languages

- Europe is home to more than 200 native languages!
- Most European languages are in 3 main language families (or categories):
  - Germanic,
  - Romance, &
  - Slavic
Members of the Indo-European Language Family
Germanic Language Family

- Has the most native speakers
- Most live in northwest and central Europe
- English & German are part of this family
  - About 20% of Europeans speak one of these two languages
- Most Europeans learn English as a 2nd language in their schools
Romance Language Family

• Includes French, Italian, & Spanish
• Most live in the south and west of Europe
• These languages come from Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire
Slavic Languages

• Includes Russian
• Found in central and eastern Europe
• Written with a Cyrillic alphabet
Brain Break!

• If possible, write your name using the Cyrillic alphabet.
Diversity in European Languages Today

- Many countries have more than one official language
  - Because of the many different ethnic groups that are present in Europe
- Many countries share borders, and people move back and forth across borders
  - About 400 million people in the world speak English because it is often the choice for a 2nd language
  - Over 1/4 of all Europeans speak English
• Having so many languages can be a problem
• Difficult to live, work, and trade with people who cannot communicate with each other
• So…
  • Schoolchildren learn 1 or 2 other languages besides their own
  • European Union has 23 “official” languages to make sure that people can understand laws and decisions made by the government.
Classify Your Language Chart into Language Families…

1. Germanic
2. Romance
3. Romance
4. Slavic
5. Romance
6. Romance