

*An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*  
**Additional Exercises - Chapter 8**

Language Change - Shaligram Shukla and Jeff Connor-Linton

1. What is meant by *related languages*? What evidence do linguists use for assuming a language family? Name several languages of an Indo-European and a non-Indo-European family.
2. What is the *comparative method of reconstruction*? What principle steps are involved in this method? What determines the reconstruction of a *proto form*?
3. What is a *native element* in a language? A *borrowed element*? Give three examples of each and explain why you call them *native* or *borrowed*.
4. What is meant by a *proto-language*? What is a *reconstructed form*? Indicate the significance of an asterisk (\*) before a linguistic form.
5. Explain *Grimm's Law*. How was the comparative method used in supporting this law? Did all voiceless stops change to fricative in all positions?
6. How does the method of *internal reconstruction* differ from the *comparative method of reconstruction*?
7. Why do some Old English plurals have no endings but instead change their root vowel, e.g. *fōt* - *fēt* (*foot* - *feet*), *mūs* - *mȳs* (*mouse* - *mice*)?
8. It is said that Germanic [f] corresponds to Latin [p] as in Latin *pater* and English *father*. Then how is the initial English [p] corresponding to a Latin [p] in English *spit* and Latin *spuere* explained?
9. What is meant by *sound change*? Name several kinds of sound change.

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10. It is said that *sound change* creates *morphophonemic alternations*. Show this with at least five examples.
11. With examples show *phonological*, *morphological*, *syntactic*, and *semantic changes* affecting the design of a language.
12. What happened in the *Great Vowel Shift* in English?
13. Why is it more likely for [u] to be maintained in the vicinity of [p, b, f] than in the vicinity of [t, d, θ]?
14. What is a *conditioned change*? Why are the changes accounted by Verner's and Grassmann's laws conditioned changes?
15. Explain briefly the following: assimilation, dissimilation, apocope, syncope, haplology, metathesis, loanshift, umlaut, and ablaut.
16. With examples distinguish analogy from sound change.
17. What is historical semantics? Why are the terms *metaphor*, *metonymy* and *ellipsis* used in the context of semantic change?
18. Spanish *caer*, *toda*, and *gota* are derived from Latin *cadere*, *tōtum*, and *gutta*, respectively. Write ordered phonological rules showing the relative chronology of the Latin medial stops in Spanish.
19. What is the usefulness of studying *historical linguistics*?