

SPEAKING ENGLISH IN EUROPE



The European Origins of English Words

Bamboozle - from French *embabouiner* (to make a baboon out of someone)

Cockroach - from Spanish *cucaracha*

Breeze - from Portuguese *brisa*

Frolic - from Dutch *vrolijk* (cheerful)

Robot - from Czech *robota* (labour, drudgery)

Umbrella - from Italian *ombrello*

Biro - named after the Hungarian inventor of the ballpoint pen *László Bíró*

5 quirky facts about the English language:¹

1 The longest English word with its letters in reverse alphabetical order is **spoonfeed**

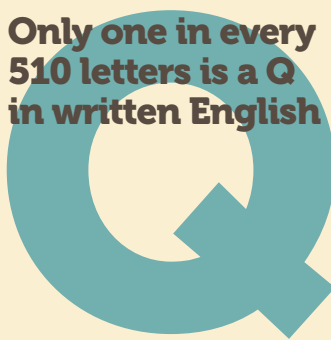
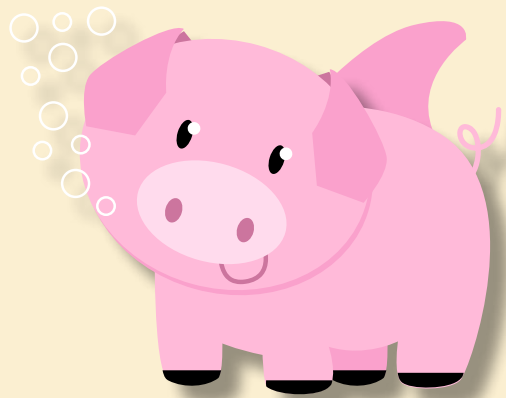
2 **Funk**

was originally a Tudor word for the stale smell of tobacco smoke

3 Porpoise literally means "pork-fish"

4 Only one in every 510 letters is a Q in written English

5 Schoolmaster is an anagram of "the classroom"



Learning English?²

88% of Europeans consider knowing a foreign language useful

67% of Europeans consider English as one of the most useful second languages

Followed by: German **17%**
French **16%**
Spanish **14%**

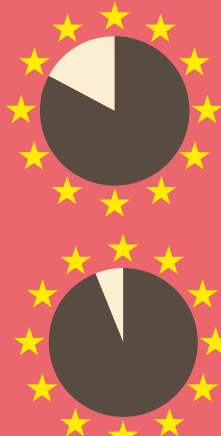


At school³

In Europe

83% of pupils at primary & lower secondary level

94% of students in upper secondary level study English



On the internet⁴

55.7% of all websites use English as their content language



At work⁵

The global language of business:

1 in 4 people speak English worldwide

