

Class 7a: Language

- Origin and diffusion of English
- Language families
- Politics of language

What is a language?

- Organized system of speech
- Mutual comprehension of sounds
- Allows transmission of culture
- Cause and symbol of cultural differentiation
- Vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, word meaning

World languages

- Estimated 6000-7000 languages
- But only 2000-3000 written
- Half the world speaks only 8
- Only 300 are safe from extinction