New English

List ten words, expressions, or items of dialect that you think have entered your language in recent times or that distinguish the form of English you first learned from other forms of English.

1. Why do you think each one of these expressions arose? Are there categories of word origin?

2. How do you know what these words mean?

3. This productive capacity gives language what advantage over other communication systems (like animal calls)?

Questions for reflection:

What are some of the things that language allows humans to do that are not possible for a species without language?

What types of thought would be much more difficult without language?

What type of action would be much more difficult without language?
The three texts are translations of the same prayer (the ‘Lord's Prayer’) from the Christian Bible. Highlight some of the similarities and some of the most pronounced differences between the texts.

- How has English changed between Old and Modern forms?

- Some researchers argue that Modern English has many of the characteristics of a creole. From your reading, and from these examples, what is some of the evidence for this theory?

- Why does it matter (does is?) that English is a creole? How does it affect language learning? Communication? Stability? Clarity?