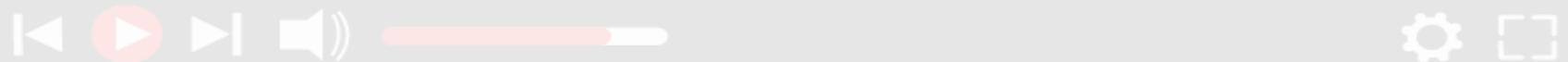


TED-Ed Video Series

Student's Book Part 1

(Lesson 1~20)



#1

***The World's
Most Mysterious Book***

TED-Ed Video Series

Viewing and Listening
Comprehension Exercises

[Click here to watch the video](#)

I. Match the underlined words below with their meanings in the brown box.

1. Its vellum pages feature looping handwriting.
2. What do these bizarre words represent?
3. He purchased the manuscript from a priest at a college.
4. Cryptologists say the writing has all the characteristics of a real language.
5. Some are borrowed from other scripts.
6. The manuscript is highly decorated with embellishments.
7. Perhaps medieval scholars were attempting to create an alphabet for a language that was spoken but not yet written.
8. The first breakthrough was the carbon dating.
9. Historians have traced the provenance of the manuscript.
10. If we can crack its code, what might we find?

- A. very strange
- B. experts in the study of codes
- C. to find a solution to a problem
- D. sets of letters used in writing languages
- E. the place where something first came from
- F. people who study a subject in great detail
- G. things added to make another thing more beautiful or interesting
- H. an old document or book that was written by hand before printing was invented
- I. an important discovery or event that helps to answer a problem or improve a situation
- J. material made from the skin of a sheep, goat, or cow, that was used for making book covers and writing in the past



II. Arrange the ideas below in the order in which they are discussed in the video.

_____ Wilfrid Voynich brought the manuscript from Italy to the United States.

_____ There are three main theories and some minor ones about the Voynich manuscript.

_____ The Voynich manuscript contains borrowed and unique letters with different styles and heights.

_____ Language researchers have suggested the identification of a few words in the Voynich manuscript.

_____ According to cryptologists, the language in the Voynich manuscript looks real, but nobody has ever seen it before.

_____ The Voynich manuscript is one of the biggest unsolved mysteries in history because nobody can understand what it says.

_____ Scientists have discovered when the Voynich manuscript was created, while historians have found out where it came from.



III. Choose the correct answer.

1. According to the video, the Voynich manuscript _____.

- A. has 340 pages
- B. was brought to the U.S. in 1420
- C. is 24 centimeters long and 16 centimeters wide

2. Wilfrid Voynich was a _____.

- A. mystic
- B. bookseller
- C. physician

3. The _____ in the manuscript have been called gallows characters.

- A. taller letters
- B. vibrant drawings
- C. scroll-like embellishments

4. According to historians, the Voynich manuscript was perhaps passed from Emperor Rudolf II to _____.

- A. John Dee
- B. Roger Bacon
- C. Jacobus Sinapius

5. Researchers have proposed that one of the words in the Voynich manuscript could be *Centaurun*, a name for a _____.

- A. plant
- B. shape
- C. constellation



IV. Write T if the sentence is correct. Write F if the sentence is incorrect. If the sentence is incorrect, change the underlined words to make it correct.

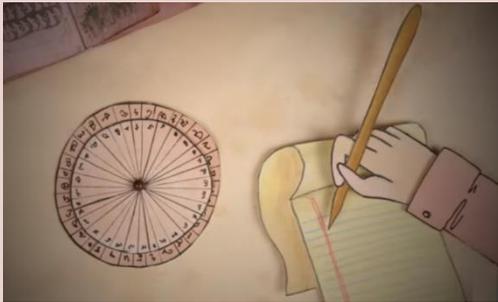
1. The only copy of the Voynich Manuscript is in a library at Yale University.
2. There are drawings of floating castles and bathing women in the Voynich manuscript.
3. It seems that just one hand wrote the Voynich Manuscript.
4. According to modern historians, the Voynich manuscript came from Rome and Easter Island.
5. Language researchers are making quick progress in identifying words in the Voynich manuscript.



V-A. Complete the following table. Use the words and phrases in the box.

Main Theories about the Voynich Manuscript

Theory 1



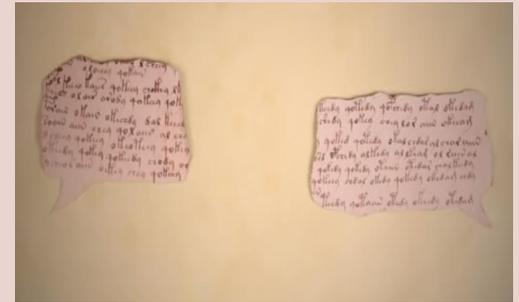
It is written in _____ ,
so its text has a secret
_____.

Theory 2



It is written in _____ ,
so it is _____.

Theory 3



It is written in _____ ,
but in _____ that no
one knows.

- cypher
- a hoax

- a script
- meaning

- gibberish
- a real language



V-B. Complete the following table. Use the words and phrases in the box.

Minor Theories about the Voynich Manuscript



It might be _____
that contains
the _____
of a culture.



It was written by _____
who tried to
understand the
universal laws
of _____.



It was written
by _____
who practiced
_____ and
_____.



It was written
by _____
in Italy.



It was written
by _____.

- grammar
- alchemy
- divination
- knowledge
- witches
- Martians
- a mystic
- a philosopher
- an encyclopedia



VI. Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. Look at the chart on the right. How many stars do you give the video? Why?
2. Based on the facts and ideas in the video, what do you think the Voynich manuscript is? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine that you will write a book, and it will be famous in history.
 - a. What will your book be about, and why?
 - b. In what code or language will you write your book? Explain your answer.
4. The Voynich manuscript is mysterious because nobody can understand what it says. Talk about another mysterious object or a mysterious person you know. Why do you say it/he/she is mysterious?

