1. Preparing to Listen

You are going to listen to a lecture about language change. Before you listen, think about the following questions.

Have you ever noticed any changes in the language(s) you speak?

In what ways do you think languages change?

What do you think causes these changes?

2. Listening for Main Ideas

Read questions 1 and 2. Listen to the lecture. Then choose the correct answer for each question.

1. Dr. Herman Nash is ______.
   a. an English teacher
   b. an expert on literature
   c. a linguist

2. According to Dr. Nash, the languages we speak ______.
   a. are being corrupted
   b. do not remain the same for very long
   c. are all very similar

3. Listening for More Detail

Read questions 3–10. Listen to the interview again and choose the correct answer for each question.

3. Changes in language are ______.
   a. always difficult to observe
   b. always easy to observe
   c. often gradual

4. Gradual probably means ______.
   a. slow
   b. unimportant
   c. negative

5. Which word was added to English because of the Internet?
   a. cell phone
   b. blog
   c. fax

6. According to Dr. Nash, words that start out as slang sometimes ______.
   a. become accepted as standard language
   b. corrupt a language
   c. become extinct

7. Dr. Nash believes that language change ______.
   a. should be stopped
   b. is usually predictable
   c. is natural

8. To be corrupted probably means ______.
   a. to become worse
   b. to improve
   c. to change quickly

9. In 1994, the French government asked its citizens to ______.
   a. not use slang
   b. not study English
   c. not use words borrowed from English

10. Samuel Johnson is known for ______.
    a. creating many new words
    b. writing a dictionary of English
    c. beginning an English school