

## The Language Quiz

Circle one or more correct answers, or say if the statement is true or false.

1. The four languages most spoken in the world are Chinese, \_\_\_\_\_, English and Hindi.

- a) French
- b) Spanish
- c) German
- d) Arab

2. The Bible is the most translated book in the world. Which book holds the second place?


- a) *Hamlet*
- b) *Pinocchio*
- c) *War and Peace*
- d) the Qur'an

3. True or False?

Every two weeks one language or dialect disappears, and there are over 2000 languages classified as 'endangered'.

4. Mark false friends between the adjectives in German and English. There are two correct answers.

- a) bald (Engl.) - bald (Ger.)
- b) digital (Engl.) - digital (Ger.)
- c) mild (Engl.) - mild (Ger.)
- d) concrete (Engl.) - konkret (Ger.)



5. A new word is added to the English dictionary every:

- a) two hours
- b) two days
- c) two weeks
- d) two months.

6. True or False?

More than a half of the world's languages have a written form.

7. Order the following German words according to their frequency. The frequency is measured according to the Duden dictionary.

- a) Jahr
- b) Prozent
- c) Million
- d) Uhr

8. How many languages are spoken in the United States?

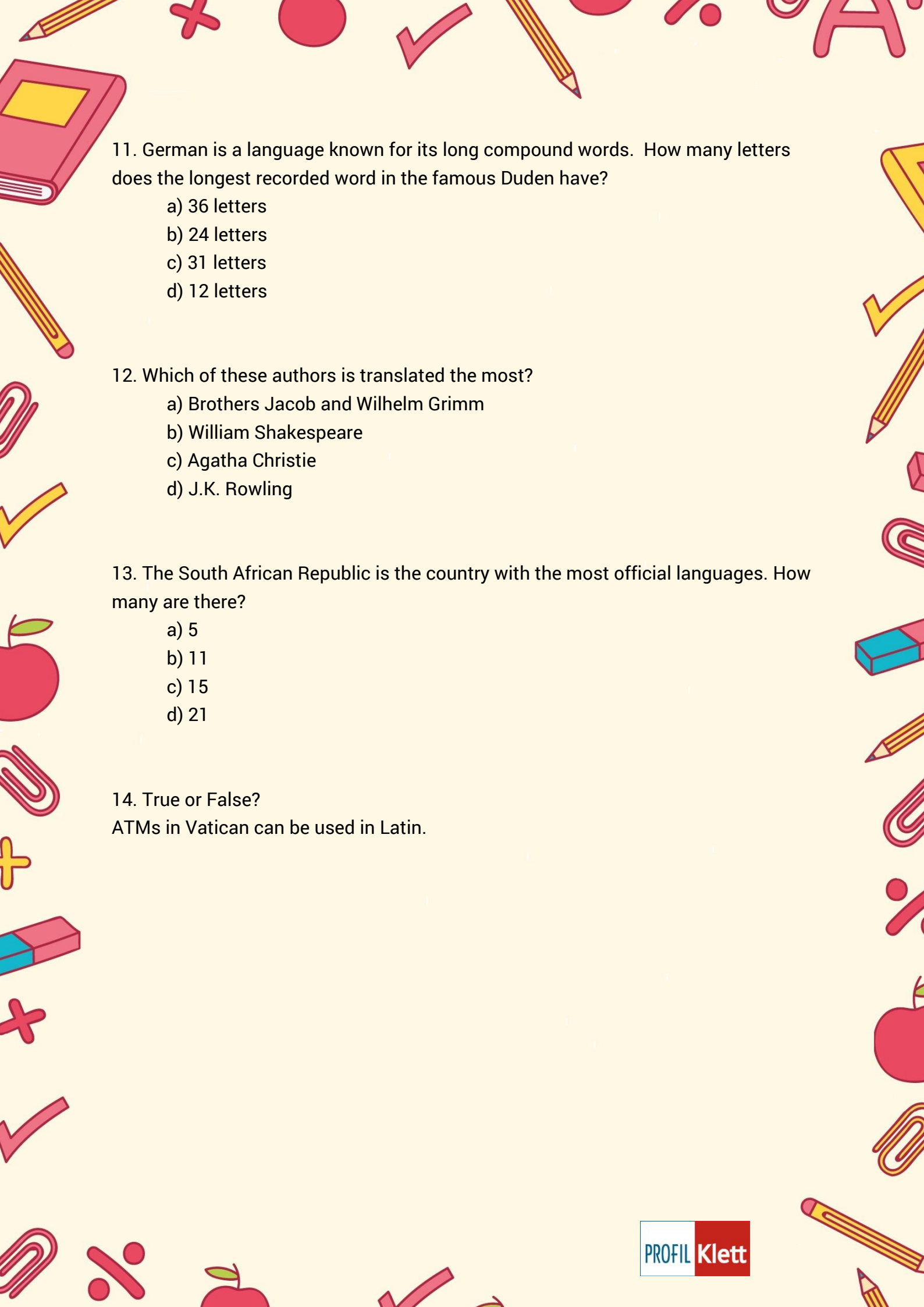
- a) over 100 languages
- b) over 200 languages
- c) over 300 languages
- d) over 400 languages

9. The two languages that can help you find a job in Croatia the most are:

- a) English and German
- b) German and French
- c) French and English.

10. Apart from Wales, the Welsh is also spoken in:

- a) Scotland
- b) Argentina
- c) Ireland
- d) Sweden.



11. German is a language known for its long compound words. How many letters does the longest recorded word in the famous Duden have?

- a) 36 letters
- b) 24 letters
- c) 31 letters
- d) 12 letters

12. Which of these authors is translated the most?

- a) Brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- b) William Shakespeare
- c) Agatha Christie
- d) J.K. Rowling

13. The South African Republic is the country with the most official languages. How many are there?

- a) 5
- b) 11
- c) 15
- d) 21

14. True or False?

ATMs in Vatican can be used in Latin.



### Answer key:

1. b) With hundreds of millions of native speakers around the world, the Spanish language is, after Mandarin, the second mother tongue with the largest number of speakers in the world.
2. b) After the Bible, and before the *Little Prince*, *Pinocchio* is the second most popular book in the world. It has been translated into 260 languages.
3. True. 2400 languages are considered endangered. There are many reasons why a language becomes endangered: the people who speak it are in physical danger, or speakers are prevented from speaking the language because of political repression or cultural hegemony.
4. a) and d) Fake pairs or fake friends are words from different languages that sound alike or similar, but do not have the same meaning. They give a headache to translators!
5. a) Every two hours, which amounts to an average of 4000 new words a year!
6. False. More than a half of the world's languages do not have a written form and are conveyed solely orally.
7. 1. Jahr, 2. Uhr, 3. Prozent, 4. Million.
8. c) There is no official language in the United States, and more than 300 languages are spoken.
9. a) Although it is only ranked third in the number of native speakers, the most useful language for finding a job is English. German is the second most widely used language in science, and it is also the most widely used mother tongue in Europe.
10. b) Apart from Wales, the Welsh is also spoken in Argentina: in 1865, the Welsh immigrants settled in Patagonia and maintained their language (Patagonian Welsh).
11. a) The longest word in Duden has 36 letters, and it reads: *Kraftfahrzeug-Haftpflichtversicherung*. It is usually written in abbreviated form: *Kfz-Haftpflichtversicherung*. It refers to one type of insurance for motor vehicles. The Swiss version reads: *Motorfahrzeughaftpflichtversicherung* – please count the letters yourself!
12. c) The most translated author in the world is Agatha Christie, with 7233 translations from English into other languages.
13. b) The South African Republic doesn't only have three capitals, it also has 11 official languages, including English, Afrikaans and Zulu.
14. True  
It seems that the Latin language classes at school were not time lost.