

TRANSLATION ACES NEWS

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◆ CREOLE v. PIDGIN ◆

To foodies, Creole is a spicy tomato and pepper sauce; to linguists, a **Creole** can be one of dozens of dialects of a European language with simplified pronunciations and grammar, serving as a mother tongue. Most Creoles developed in the West Indies from Spanish or French slaves, but some people in Alaska of Russian and Eskimo or Indian descent are called Creoles, too.

A **pidgin** is a form of speech with simplified grammar and rather limited vocabulary, but serves as a form of intergroup communication. Pidgin English, for example, is sometimes used in Chinese seaports.

Some unusual ones:

◆ **Papiamentu** (native but unofficial language spoken by over 200,000 people in the Dutch Antilles, i.e., Curacao, Aruba & Bonaire) is a Creole based on Spanish but uses words from Dutch, English, Portuguese, French and other languages thrown in.

The more widely-known Creoles are spoken in Louisiana, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, Dominica, Trinidad, French Guiana and the African islands of Mauritius, Reunion and the Seychelles.

◆ **Taki-Taki** — pronounced "Talkee-Talkee" — is a variety of pidgin English spoken in Suriname (Dutch Guiana) in South America, where the official language is Dutch.

◆ **Police Motu** is a popular pidgin language in Papua (southeastern New Guinea); the peculiar name comes from its having been used by pre-war Papuan native policemen.

◆ FEATURE ◆ Lingua Quiz!

- 1 – The origin of May 1st being "May Day" is:
 - (a) Worldwide traditional workers' "Labor Day" holiday
 - (b) Royal holiday to crown "Queen of the May"
 - (c) Used to be 1st day of summer
 - (d) All of the above
- 2 – Why is "Mayday" an expression of call for help?
 - (a) More ships have difficulty sailing in May
 - (b) It came from accidents dancing around the Maypole
 - (c) It's derived from the French "*m'aider*," meaning "help me."
- 3 – May is one of the few months of the year that is similarly pronounced in many of the world's languages. In which is it called "*maj*"?
 - (a) Swedish
 - (b) Slovenian
 - (c) Greek

ANSWERS:

(d) + (a) – ε :(c) – 2 :(p) – 1

◆ 29 Broadway, Suite 2301 ◆ Tel.: 212-269-4660 ◆ Fax: 212-269-4662 ◆ info@translationaces.com