

The making of the crofting community english edit Textbook

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The making of the crofting community has long been a fascinating subject, intertwining history, culture, language, and social development. Understanding how this unique community evolved requires a deep dive into its origins, the socio-economic factors that shaped it, and the linguistic characteristics that define its identity today. The process of editing or refining the "English" spoken within crofting communities—whether through linguistic analysis, documentation, or cultural preservation—further underscores the importance of recognizing these communities' distinctiveness. This article explores the historical roots of crofting, the development of its community, and the contemporary efforts to preserve and understand its linguistic heritage.

Historical Origins of Crofting Communities

Early Land Use and Settlement Patterns

Crofting communities primarily developed in the remote and rural parts of the Scottish Highlands and Islands, notably in regions such as the Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland. These communities emerged from a combination of:

- Agricultural practices suited to rugged terrain
- Small-scale farming systems
- Climatic conditions that limited large-scale agriculture

The land was often divided into small parcels known as crofts, which were allocated to tenants or smallholders. These crofts functioned as both a livelihood and a social unit, fostering close-knit communities.

Influence of Land Laws and Historical Events

Several key historical factors influenced the formation and evolution of crofting communities:

- **The Clearances (18th-19th centuries):** Large-scale cleared estates led to depopulation, but also prompted many displaced tenants to establish new crofting communities elsewhere.

- **The Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act 1886:** This legislation formalized rights for crofters, securing tenure and recognizing the community's economic importance.

- **Land Reforms and Landlord-tenant Relations:** The gradual shift from feudal landholding to more equitable arrangements helped sustain crofting communities.

These historical processes laid the groundwork for a resilient community structure rooted in shared land use and mutual dependence.

Socio-economic Development of Crofting Communities

Economic Activities and Livelihoods

The economy of crofting communities has traditionally revolved around:

- Small-scale farming and animal husbandry
- Fishing and maritime activities
- Handicrafts and local trades
- Tourism and cultural heritage projects in recent years

The limited economic base fostered a sense of self-reliance and cooperation among residents, which in turn reinforced social cohesion.

Social Structures and Community Life

Community life in crofting areas has historically been characterized by:

- Shared labor and communal work events
- Local festivals and cultural traditions
- Mutual support networks, especially during harsh weather or economic downturns

These elements contributed to a strong communal identity that persists today, despite modern economic pressures.

Language and Dialects in Crofting Communities

The Role of Gaelic and Scots

Language has always been a vital part of crofting community identity. Historically, two primary languages influenced these areas:

- **Scottish Gaelic:** Predominant in the Highlands and Western Isles, Gaelic provided a linguistic and cultural connection to Celtic traditions.
- **Scots Dialects:** In lowland and eastern regions, Scots dialects, including Doric and other northern varieties, were prevalent.

Over time, language shift and social changes have affected the extent of Gaelic use, but remnants remain in oral traditions and local speech.

Linguistic Features of the Crofting Community Speech

The speech within crofting communities exhibits unique features, often blending Gaelic and Scots influences:

- Distinct pronunciation patterns and intonations
- Vocabulary specific to agricultural and maritime life
- Use of idiomatic expressions rooted in local culture

Linguists and cultural historians have documented these features to preserve the community's linguistic heritage.

The Making of the Crofting Community English Edit

Understanding the Need for an English Edit

As language and cultural preservation become priorities, scholars and community leaders recognize the importance of documenting and refining the "English" spoken in crofting communities. This involves:

- Capturing local vocabulary and idioms
- Standardizing spelling and grammar for educational purposes
- Ensuring that the community's linguistic identity is preserved in written form

Such efforts help foster pride, facilitate cultural transmission, and support language revitalization initiatives.

The Process of Developing an English Edit

Creating an "edit" or standardized version of crofting community English involves multiple steps:

- **Fieldwork and Data Collection:** Recording oral histories, interviews, and everyday speech from community members.
- **Linguistic Analysis:** Identifying unique features, vocabulary, and grammatical structures.
- **Community Consultation:** Engaging locals to ensure authenticity and cultural sensitivity.
- **Standardization and Documentation:** Developing orthographic conventions and explanatory notes.
- **Publishing and Education:** Producing materials such as dictionaries, grammar guides, and educational resources.

This meticulous process aims to respect linguistic diversity while making the language accessible and preservable.

Challenges and Opportunities in the English Edit

While the effort to develop a standardized version of crofting community English is valuable, it encounters several challenges:

- Balancing authenticity with standardization
- Ensuring community participation and ownership
- Addressing language shift and declining speakers
- Securing funding and institutional support

Conversely, these challenges present opportunities for cultural revival, tourism, and educational initiatives that celebrate the linguistic heritage of crofting communities.

Preservation and Future of Crofting Community Language

Community-Led Initiatives

Many crofting communities have launched efforts to preserve and promote their linguistic heritage through:

- Language classes and workshops
- Local storytelling events
- Recording and archiving oral histories
- Inclusion of local dialects in school curricula

These initiatives foster intergenerational transmission of language and strengthen community bonds.

Technological and Academic Support

Modern technology offers new avenues for preservation:

- Digital archives and databases
- Mobile apps and online dictionaries
- Academic research on linguistic features
- Social media platforms for community engagement

Collaborations between scholars, community members, and institutions are vital to sustaining these efforts.

Challenges to Future Sustainability

Despite progress, certain issues threaten the future of crofting community language:

- Urban migration and declining rural populations
- Globalization and media influence
- Language shift towards standard English or Scots
- Lack of formal recognition or institutional support

Addressing these challenges requires ongoing commitment, policy support, and community activism.

Conclusion: The Cultural Significance of the Crofting Community English

The making of the crofting community, including its language and dialects, is a testament to resilience, cultural identity, and the enduring connection between land and people. The effort to create an English edit serves as a bridge between tradition and modernity, ensuring that future generations can appreciate their linguistic heritage. Preserving and promoting the unique linguistic features of crofting communities not only enriches Scotland's cultural tapestry but also contributes to global diversity in language. As these communities continue to adapt to contemporary challenges, their linguistic legacy remains a vital part of their identity, worthy of recognition, support, and celebration.

The Making of the Crofting Community English Edit: A Deep Dive into Language Preservation and Cultural Revival

The process of creating the crofting community English edit represents a significant effort to preserve, celebrate, and adapt the unique linguistic heritage of Scottish crofting communities. This meticulously crafted language edit aims to reflect the authentic voice of those who live and work in these rural, often remote, areas while ensuring accessibility and relevance for contemporary audiences. Such an endeavor is not merely about editing text; it's a cultural project rooted in history, identity, and the resilience of a community's linguistic traditions.

Understanding Crofting and Its Cultural Significance

What Is Crofting?

Crofting is a form of small-scale, tenant farming associated primarily with the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Historically, crofting communities have been characterized by:

- Small landholdings, often less than five acres
- A reliance on traditional agricultural practices
- A strong sense of community and mutual support
- Distinct dialects and linguistic expressions embedded in everyday life

The Cultural Importance of Language in Crofting Communities

Language serves as a vessel of cultural memory. For crofting communities, the dialects and idioms used are intertwined with their history, environment, and social structures. Preserving this language is vital for maintaining a sense of identity, passing down oral histories, and fostering community cohesion.

The Genesis of the English Edit: Purpose and Goals

Why Create an English Edit for Crofting Community Language?

The primary motivations include:

- Making community stories, histories, and knowledge accessible to a wider audience
- Preserving linguistic nuances specific to crofting life
- Balancing authenticity with clarity for readers unfamiliar with regional dialects
- Supporting educational initiatives and cultural heritage projects

Overarching Goals

- Maintain the integrity of local expressions
- Clarify meaning without diluting cultural significance
- Promote understanding and appreciation of crofting life
- Facilitate documentation for future generations

The Process of Developing the Crofting Community English Edit

Creating such a specialized language edit involves a multi-stage, collaborative process. It combines linguistic expertise, cultural sensitivity, and community involvement.

- Gathering Original Material

Sources

- Oral histories and interviews with community elders
- Local literature, poetry, and song lyrics
- Official documents, farm records, and historical texts
- Contemporary writings reflecting crofting life

Challenges

- Variability in dialects and speech patterns
 - Limited written records
 - Ensuring representation of diverse voices within the community
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- Linguistic Analysis and Documentation

Identifying Key Features

- Unique vocabulary specific to crofting life (e.g., clachan, crofters, boord [a type of fence])
- Grammar structures and syntax particular to the dialect
- Phonetic nuances and pronunciation patterns

Creating a Linguistic Framework

- Developing a glossary of regional terms
- Mapping idiomatic expressions to their meanings
- Noting linguistic features that require preservation or adaptation

- Balancing Authenticity and Accessibility

Strategies Employed

- Retaining regional vocabulary where meaningful
- Providing contextual explanations for less familiar terms
- Using footnotes or sidebars for cultural references
- Standardizing spellings to aid readability without losing regional flavor

- Drafting the English Edit

Approaches

- Literal translation preserving original structures
- Creative adaptations that maintain original intent
- Incorporation of phonetic spellings to evoke pronunciation

Review and Revision

- Multiple drafts to refine tone and clarity
- Feedback from linguistic experts and community members
- Ensuring the final version respects cultural nuances

- Validation and Community Engagement

Community Consultation

- Organizing focus groups and workshops
- Gathering feedback on authenticity and readability
- Incorporating suggestions to improve the edit

Ethical Considerations

- Respect for community privacy and oral traditions
- Acknowledgment of contributors and sources
- Ensuring the project benefits the community

Key Challenges and How They Were Addressed

Preserving Cultural Authenticity

Challenge: Avoiding overly anglicized translations that strip the language of its cultural depth.

Solution: Engaging community elders and linguists to guide the editing process, ensuring that regional expressions are preserved and explained rather than sanitized.

Balancing Regional Dialect and General Readability

Challenge: Making the content accessible without losing the regional flavor.

Solution: Using a hybrid approach?retaining key dialect words with contextual explanations, and providing glossaries for terms.

Technical Limitations and Resource Constraints

Challenge: Limited existing written records and linguistic studies specific to crofting dialects.

Solution: Combining oral histories with scholarly research, and where necessary, creating new documentation through community interviews.

Impact and Significance of the English Edit

Cultural Preservation

The English edit acts as a bridge, ensuring that the linguistic identity of crofting communities survives in a form that can be appreciated by future generations and outsiders.

Educational Value

It serves as a resource for schools, cultural organizations, and researchers interested in Scottish dialects and rural life.

Promoting Community Pride

By highlighting authentic expressions and stories, the edit fosters a sense of pride and ownership among community members.

Facilitating Broader Understanding

It helps outsiders appreciate the richness of crofting life, dispelling stereotypes and fostering intercultural dialogue.

Future Directions and Continuing Efforts

Digital Archives and Resources

- Developing interactive websites and apps
- Creating multimedia recordings of dialect words and phrases

Community-Led Initiatives

- Workshops on dialect preservation
- Incorporating the language edit into local education curricula
- Encouraging young community members to document their own linguistic heritage

Collaboration with Linguistic and Cultural Institutions

- Partnering with universities and heritage organizations
- Publishing anthologies and guides based on the English edit

Conclusion: The Making of the Crofting Community English Edit as a Cultural Catalyst

The development of the crofting community English edit exemplifies how linguistic preservation can serve as a foundation for cultural resilience. It involves a delicate balance?honoring the authenticity of regional dialects while making them accessible and meaningful to wider audiences. This meticulous process not only safeguards linguistic heritage but also celebrates the vibrant, enduring spirit of crofting communities. As efforts continue, this work stands as a testament to the power of language in shaping identity and fostering cultural continuity in a rapidly changing world.

QuestionAnswer What is the focus of 'The Making of the Crofting Community' in its English

edition? The book explores the historical development and social dynamics of crofting communities in Scotland, highlighting their cultural and economic significance. Who is the author of 'The Making of the Crofting Community'? The work was authored by a renowned researcher specializing in Scottish rural history, providing an in-depth analysis of crofting communities. What makes the English edition of this book particularly relevant today? The English edition makes the insights into crofting history accessible to a broader audience, emphasizing issues of rural sustainability and community resilience. How does the book address the challenges faced by crofting communities? It discusses economic pressures, land reforms, and social changes, offering historical context and potential pathways for future sustainability. What new content or updates are included in the English edition? The edition features updated research, case studies, and a broader discussion on the impact of modern policies on crofting communities. How has the making of the crofting community been documented in this edition? Through a combination of historical records, oral histories, and ethnographic research, providing a comprehensive narrative of community development. Why is 'The Making of the Crofting Community' considered a significant contribution to rural Scottish studies? Because it offers a detailed, nuanced understanding of crofting's social fabric, influencing academic discourse and policy discussions on rural development.

Related keywords: crofting community, rural development, land use, Scottish Highlands, farming traditions, community planning, rural heritage, land management, agricultural practices, local governance

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced

back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes?Angles, Saxons, and Jutes?that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450?1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.
- **Middle English (c. 1150?1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.
- **Early Modern English (c. 1500?1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.
- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer?s Canterbury Tales to William Shakespeare?s plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language?s development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages

- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages
- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard
- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world's primary lingua franca—an auxiliary language used for international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms
- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English
- Learn English online
- English language development
- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes—namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450–1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like *Beowulf*.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150–1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar,

making literature more accessible.

- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.
- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.
- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation
- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation

- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)
- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English's structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English's significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today's interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

Question What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. **Answer** How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English

language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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