The development of the English language

A lot of English words are easy for Germans to learn as they are similar in both languages. But the same could be said by the French. Why is this?

English			
cow	mouse	beef	defend
German		**French**	
Kuh	Maus	boeuf	defendre

When the Romans left Britain after almost 400 years, the country and the Celtic people who lived there were unprotected. Soon the island was invaded by different tribes from northern Germany and Denmark — the Angles and Saxons.

c. AD 400
From the Romans came a lot of place names ending in -Chester, -cester, -caster.

The Angles and Saxons settled in large areas of Britain. These tribes spoke similar Germanic dialects. And a new language, Anglo-Saxon, replaced Celtic as the native language of Britain.
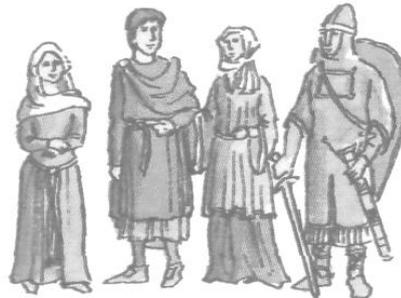
c.650
From the Angles and the Saxons came: mother, brother, father; eat, sleep, drink; cow, cat, fish, field

During the 9th century Vikings from Denmark and Norway started settling in Britain. They introduced many of their words, but the language remained basically Anglo-Saxon.

c.800
The Vikings added: law, skin, sky, knife, take, hit, same, ugly, they, them, their.

The Normans were the last people to conquer 20 Britain. For 300 years their language, French, was the official language of the country. However, Anglo-Saxon remained the language of the native people. Most of them never even learned French. In the 14th century English 25 became a kind of "mixture" of Anglo-Saxon and Norman French.

1066
The Normans introduced: government, parliament, minister, officer, science, religion, judge, court, crime, defend.

Over the centuries the English language continued to develop and show a great ability to accept words from other languages. As British explorers came back from different countries in the 15th and 16th centuries, they introduced words such as 'shampoo' and 'pyjamas' from India, 'tea' and 'tobacco' from America. And it has continued to accept more and more new words: 'anorak' from the Eskimos, 'moccasins' from the American Indians, 'rucksack' and 'kindergarten' from the Germans. Today, the English language has over 800,000 words — more than any other language in the world.

Here are lists of 1. Latin, 2. French words.

Try to find the English words corresponding to them.

1. absens, accipere, Britanni, certo, destruere, difficilis, Germania, machina, pagina, parens, persona, persuadere, promittere, serius, signum, theatrum, violentia

2. activite, adresse, appartement, automne, citoyen, commun, dictionnaire, decouvrir, grandmere, hopital, idee, introduire, lecon, litterature, prix, prononciation, produire, survivre, vehicule, vocabulaire