

Language (læˌŋgwɛdʒ), *sb.* ME. [*a.* F. *langage* :—pop.L. type **linguaticum*, f. *lingua* tongue, language (F. *langue*; see **LANGUE**). The *u* is after F. *langue*.] 1. The whole body of words and of methods of combining them used by a nation, people, or race; a 'tongue'. **b.** *transf.* Method of expression otherwise than by words 1606. 2. *gen.* Words and the methods of combining them for the expression of thought 1599. **b.** Faculty of speech; ability to speak a foreign tongue. Now *rare*, 1526. 3. Manner or style of expression ME.