

Below is a text with blanks. Select the appropriate answer choice for each blank.

C. S. Lewis, or Jack Lewis, as he preferred to be called, was born in Belfast, Ireland (now Northern Ireland) on November 29, 1898. He was the second son of Albert Lewis, a lawyer, and Flora Hamilton Lewis. His older brother, Warren Hamilton Lewis, who was known as Warnie, had been born three years in 1895.

Lewis's early childhood was relatively happy and carefree. In those days Northern Ireland was not yet by bitter civil strife, and the Lewises were comfortably off. The family home, called Little Lea, was a large, gabled house with dark, narrow passages and an overgrown garden, which Warnie and Jack played in and together. There was also a library that was crammed with books - two of Jack's favorites were *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson and *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

This somewhat idyllic boyhood came to an end for Lewis when his mother became ill and died of cancer in 1908. Barely a month after her death the two boys were sent away from home to go to boarding school in England.

Lewis hated the school, with its strict rules and hard, headmaster, and he missed Belfast terribly. Fortunately for him, the school closed in 1910, and he was able to return to Ireland.

After a year, however, he was sent back to England to study. This time, the proved to be mostly positive. As a teenager, Lewis learned to love poetry, especially the works of Virgil and Homer. He also developed an interest in modern languages, mastering French, German, and Italian.

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If after years of Spanish classes, some people still find it impossible to understand some native speakers, they should not worry. This does not mean the lessons were wasted. Millions of Spanish speakers use neither standard Latin American Spanish nor Castilian, which predominate in US schools.

The confusion is partly political - the Spanish-speaking world is very diverse. Spanish is the language of 19 separate countries and Puerto Rico. This means that there is no one standard dialect.

The most common Spanish dialect taught in the US is standard Latin American. It is sometimes called "Highland" Spanish since it is generally spoken in the areas of Latin America.

While each country retains its own and has some unique vocabulary, residents of countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia generally speak Latin American Spanish, especially in urban centers. This dialect is noted for its of each letter and its strong "r" sounds. This Spanish was spoken in Spain in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and was brought to the Americas by the early colonists.

However, the Spanish of Madrid and of northern Spain, called Castilian, developed that never reached the New World. These include the pronunciation of "ci" and "ce" as "th." In Madrid, "gracias" (thank you) becomes "gratheas" (as opposed to "gras-see-as" in Latin America). Another difference is the use of the word "vosotros" (you all, or you guys) as the informal form of "ustedes" in Spain.

Castilian sounds to Latin Americans much like British English sounds to US residents.

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Called Chomolungma ("goddess mother of the world") in Tibet and Sagarmatha ("goddess of the sky") in Nepal, Mount Everest once went by the pedestrian name of Peak XV among Westerners. That was before established that it was the highest mountain on Earth, a fact that came as something of a surprise - Peak XV had seemed lost in the crowd of other formidable Himalayan peaks, many of which gave the of greater height.

In 1852 the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India measured Everest's elevation as 29,002 feet above sea level. This figure remained the officially height for more than one hundred years. In 1955 it was adjusted by a mere 26 feet to 29,028 (8,848 m).

The mountain received its official name in 1865 in honor of Sir George Everest, the British Surveyor General from 1830-1843 who had mapped the Indian subcontinent. He had some about having his name bestowed on the peak, arguing that the mountain should retain its local appellation, the standard policy of geographical societies.

Before the Survey of India, a number of other mountains ranked supreme in the eyes of the world. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Andean peak Chimborazo was considered the highest. At a relatively unremarkable 20,561 feet (6,310 m), it is in fact nowhere near the highest, by about thirty other Andean peaks and several dozen in the Himalayas. In 1809, the Himalayan peak Dhaulagiri (26,810 ft.; 8,172 m) was declared the ultimate, only to be shunted aside in 1840 by Kanchenjunga (28,208 ft.; 8,598 m), which today ranks third. Everest's status has been unrivaled for the last century and a half, but not without a few threats.