

DOWNLOAD PDF THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Chapter 1 : The Origins and Development of the English Language by John Algeo

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It was probably originally written in Northumbria, although the single manuscript that has come down to us which dates from around contains a bewildering mix of Northumbrian, West Saxon and Anglian dialects. The 3, lines of the work shows that Old English was already a fully developed poetic language by this time, with a particular emphasis on alliteration and percussive effects. Even at this early stage before the subsequent waves of lexical enrichment , the variety and depth of English vocabulary, as well as its predilection for synonyms and subtleties of meanings, is evident. For example, the poem uses 36 different words for hero, 20 for man, 12 for battle and 11 for ship. There are also many interesting "kennings" or allusive compound words, such as hronrad literally, whale-road, meaning the sea , banhus bone-house, meaning body and beadoleoma battle-light, meaning sword. Old English was a very complex language, at least in comparison with modern English. Nouns had three genders male, female and neuter and could be inflected for up to five cases. Adjectives could have up to eleven forms. Even definite articles had three genders and five case forms as a singular and four as a plural. Word order was much freer than today, the sense being carried by the inflections and only later by the use of propositions. Although it looked quite different from modern English on paper, once the pronunciation and spelling rules are understood, many of its words become quite familiar to modern ears. Many of the most basic and common words in use in English today have their roots in Old English, including words like water, earth, house, food, drink, sleep, sing, night, strong, the, a, be, of, he, she, you, no, not, etc. Interestingly, many of our common swear words are also of Anglo-Saxon origin including tits, fart, shit, turd, arse and, probably, piss , and most of the others were of early medieval provenance. Care should be taken, though, with what are sometimes called "false friends", words that appear to be similar in Old English and modern English, but whose meanings have changed, words such as wif wife, which originally meant any woman, married or not , fugol fowl, which meant any bird, not just a farmyard one , sona soon, which meant immediately, not just in a while , won wan, which meant dark, not pale and fst fast, which meant fixed or firm, not rapidly. During the 6th Century, for reasons which are still unclear, the Anglo-Saxon consonant cluster "sk" changed to "sh", so that skiold became shield. This change affected all "sk" words in the language at that time, whether recent borrowings from Latin e. Any modern English words which make use of the "sk" cluster came into the language after the 6th Century i. Then, around the 7th Century, a vowel shift took place in Old English pronunciation analogous to the Great Vowel Shift during the Early Modern period in which vowels began to be pronounced more to the front of the mouth. The main sound affected was "i", hence its common description as "i-mutation" or "i-umlaut" umlaut is a German term meaning sound alteration. As part of this process, the plurals of several nouns also started to be represented by changed vowel pronunciations rather than changes in inflection.

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Chapter 2 : History of English | EnglishClub

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Enjoy the Famous Daily Words on the brain: All social animals communicate with each other, from bees and ants to whales and apes, but only humans have developed a language which is more than a set of prearranged signals. Our speech even differs in a physical way from the communication of other animals. It comes from a cortical speech centre which does not respond instinctively, but organises sound and meaning on a rational basis. This section of the brain is unique to humans. When and how the special talent of language developed is impossible to say. But it is generally assumed that its evolution must have been a long process. Our ancestors were probably speaking a million years ago, but with a slower delivery, a smaller vocabulary and above all a simpler grammar than we are accustomed to.

Origins of language The origins of human language will perhaps remain for ever obscure. By contrast the origin of individual languages has been the subject of very precise study over the past two centuries. There are about languages spoken in the world today a third of them in Africa, but scholars group them together into relatively few families - probably less than twenty. Languages are linked to each other by shared words or sounds or grammatical constructions. The theory is that the members of each linguistic group have descended from one language, a common ancestor. In many cases that original language is judged by the experts to have been spoken in surprisingly recent times - as little as a few thousand years ago. This entire group, ranging from Hindi and Persian to Norwegian and English, is believed to descend from the language of a tribe of nomads roaming the plains of eastern Europe and western Asia in modern terms centring on the Ukraine as recently as about BC. From about BC people speaking Indo-European languages begin to spread through Europe, eventually reaching the Atlantic coast and the northern shores of the Mediterranean. They also penetrate far into Asia - occupying the Iranian plateau and much of India. Another linguistic group, of significance in the early history of west Asia and still of great importance today, is the Semitic family of languages. These also are believed to derive from the language of just one tribal group, possibly nomads in southern Arabia. By about BC Semitic languages are spoken over a large tract of desert territory from southern Arabia to the north of Syria. Several Semitic peoples play a prominent part in the early civilization of the region, from the Babylonians and Assyrians to the Hebrews and Phoenicians.

Language and race A shared linguistic family does not imply any racial link, though in modern times this distinction has often been blurred. Within the Indo-European family, for example, there is a smaller Indo-Iranian group of languages, also known as Aryan, which are spoken from Persia to India. In keeping with a totally unfounded racist theory of the late 19th century, the Nazis chose the term Aryan to identify a blond master race. Blond or not, the Aryans are essentially a linguistic rather than a genetic family. The same is true of the Semitic family, including two groups which have played a major part in human history - the Jews and the Arabs.

Enclaves of language On a Linguistic map of the world, most of the great language families occupy one distinct and self-contained territory. The two exceptions are the Indo-European and the Finno-Ugric groups. But the intermingling of Indo-European and Finno-Ugric, forming a patchwork quilt across Europe, has come about for a different and earlier reason. Finland, together with Estonia on the opposite shore of the Baltic, forms one isolated pocket of the Finno-Ugric group the Finno part. Hungary is another the Ugric element. The cause of this wide separation is the great plateau of Europe which Finno-Ugric and Indo-European tribes have shared and fought over through the centuries. The ancestral language of the Finns, Estonians and Hungarians was once spoken in a compact region between the Baltic and the Ural mountains, until these people were scattered by Indo-European pressure. This linguistic division exactly reflects the influence of the Roman empire. Italy, France and the peninsula of Spain were sufficiently stable regions in the Roman world to retain the influence of Latin after the collapse of the empire. The Germanic areas east and north of the Rhine were never fully brought under Roman control the exact linguistic dividing

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line survives in modern Belgium , with its population speaking French in the south and Flemish in the north. England was safely within the empire for three centuries. But the Romanized Celts were not strong enough to resist the invading German tribes, the Angles and the Saxons. Their languages prevailed in the form of Anglo-Saxon. Modern English occupies a middle position within the western European family of languages, with its vocabulary approximately half Germanic and half Romance in origin. The cause is more recent, in the Norman conquest. After seizing northwest France and adopting the local language, the Normans arrive in England with French as an essential part of their cultural baggage. Several centuries of rule by Norman aristocrats and bureaucrats bring Latin words back into the language of England through the medium of medieval French. Linguistic evolution The ongoing struggle between languages is a process very similar to evolution. A word, like a gene, will travel and prevail according to its usefulness. As with evolution, the development of language is an irresistible force - though traditionalists invariably attempt to build barriers against change. On a grander scale, the French government from time to time legislates ineffectually against English words straying into French. These are the hybrids described as *franglais*. A good example of their impertinence is the enticing notice on a tweed jacket seen in a Parisian shop window: *Imperial tongues* The French neurosis about being tainted by English though the intrusion is trivial compared to the overwhelming effect of Norman French on English in the past is linked to a wider aspect of the evolutionary struggle between languages. A major advance for any language is to become a *Lingua franca*. In more recent times English - first through the British empire, but more significantly through American world dominance in the 20th century - has replaced French in this role. English in the late 20th century is in the fortunate position of being the *lingua franca* at an unusual moment. For the first time in history a global language is needed for practical purposes by scientists, by airline pilots. Meanwhile a communication system is in place to spread some knowledge of the English language to a mass international audience through radio, television and the internet. The imperial power underpinning American English as a *lingua franca* is for the first time cultural and economic rather than military. Others will come and go. It is also true to say that the predominance of English depends on its spread rather than the total number speaking it. Chinese is spoken by more people than English albeit in only one region of the world , and Chinese economic power lies in the future. But the complexity of Chinese perhaps makes it an unlikely rival candidate. One of the great advantages of English is that it is easy to speak at a simple level, though immensely complex in its idiom. New languages from old Meanwhile the evolutionary processes go on. Already there are many varieties of English in use. The pidgin English flourishing in New Guinea is baffling to an outsider; originally devised as a practical business language, reduced to its simplest elements, it has evolved its own rich character. In the same way English-speaking communities in the West Indies or in India not to mention America have developed local words, phrases and constructions which give their own version of the language a special colour. The astonishing proliferation of Indo-European languages from one tongue, just years ago, will not be repeated in our more interconnected world. But the tendency of language to evolve continues unchecked.

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Chapter 3 : What are the origins of the English Language? | Merriam-Webster

The Origins and Development of the English Language has ratings and 24 reviews. Jerry said: There is an occasional meme going around about how so man.

Crimean Gothic Other Germanic languages with which Old Norse still retained some mutual intelligibility Vikings from modern-day Norway and Denmark began to raid parts of Britain from the late 8th century onward. In , however, a major invasion was launched by what the Anglo-Saxons called the Great Heathen Army , which eventually brought large parts of northern and eastern England the Danelaw under Scandinavian control. Most of these areas were retaken by the English under Edward the Elder in the early 10th century, although York and Northumbria were not permanently regained until the death of Eric Bloodaxe in . The Anglo-Saxons and the Scandinavians thus spoke related languages from different branches West and North of the Germanic family; many of their lexical roots were the same or similar, although their grammatical systems were more divergent. Probably significant numbers of Norse speakers settled in the Danelaw during the period of Scandinavian control. Many place-names in those areas are of Scandinavian provenance those ending in -by, for example ; it is believed that the settlers often established new communities in places that had not previously been developed by the Anglo-Saxons. The extensive contact between Old English and Old Norse speakers, including the possibility of intermarriage that resulted from the acceptance of Christianity by the Danes in , [10] undoubtedly influenced the varieties of those languages spoken in the areas of contact. Some scholars even believe that Old English and Old Norse underwent a kind of fusion and that the resulting English language might be described as a mixed language or creole. During the rule of Cnut and other Danish kings in the first half of the 11th century, a kind of diglossia may have come about, with the West Saxon literary language existing alongside the Norse-influenced Midland dialect of English, which could have served as a koine or spoken lingua franca. When Danish rule ended, and particularly after the Norman Conquest , the status of the minority Norse language presumably declined relative to that of English, and its remaining speakers assimilated to English in a process involving language shift and language death. The widespread bilingualism that must have existed during the process possibly contributed to the rate of borrowings from Norse into English. The borrowing of words of this type was stimulated by Scandinavian rule in the Danelaw and during the later reign of Cnut. However, most surviving Old English texts are based on the West Saxon standard that developed outside the Danelaw; it is not clear to what extent Norse influenced the forms of the language spoken in eastern and northern England at that time. Later texts from the Middle English era, now based on an eastern Midland rather than a Wessex standard, reflect the significant impact that Norse had on the language. In all, English borrowed about words from Old Norse , several hundred surviving in Modern English. Norse influence is also believed to have reinforced the adoption of the plural copular verb form are rather than alternative Old English forms like sind. It is also considered to have stimulated and accelerated the morphological simplification found in Middle English, such as the loss of grammatical gender and explicitly marked case except in pronouns. The spread of phrasal verbs in English is another grammatical development to which Norse may have contributed although here a possible Celtic influence is also noted. Middle English Middle English is the form of English spoken roughly from the time of the Norman Conquest in until the end of the 15th century. Merchants and lower-ranked nobles were often bilingual in Anglo-Norman and English, whilst English continued to be the language of the common people. Even after the decline of Norman, standard French retained the status of a formal or prestige language , and about 10, French and Norman loan words entered Middle English, particularly terms associated with government, church, law, the military, fashion, and food [13] see English language word origins and List of English words of French origin. The strong influence of Old Norse on English described in the previous section also becomes apparent during this period. The impact of the native British Celtic languages that English continued to displace is generally held to be much smaller, although some attribute such analytic verb forms as the continuous aspect "to be doing" or

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"to have been doing" to Celtic influence. English literature began to reappear after , when a changing political climate and the decline in Anglo-Norman made it more respectable. The Provisions of Oxford , released in , was the first English government document to be published in the English language after the Norman Conquest. The Pleading in English Act made English the only language in which court proceedings could be held, though the official record remained in Latin. Anglo-Norman remained in use in limited circles somewhat longer, but it had ceased to be a living language. Official documents began to be produced regularly in English during the 15th century. Geoffrey Chaucer , who lived in the late 14th century, is the most famous writer from the Middle English period, and *The Canterbury Tales* is his best-known work. The English language changed enormously during the Middle English period, both in vocabulary and pronunciation, and in grammar. While Old English is a heavily inflected language synthetic , the use of grammatical endings diminished in Middle English analytic. Grammar distinctions were lost as many noun and adjective endings were levelled to -e. The older plural noun marker -en retained in a few cases such as children and oxen largely gave way to -s, and grammatical gender was discarded. Early Modern English[edit] Main article: Early Modern English English underwent extensive sound changes during the 15th century, while its spelling conventions remained largely constant. Modern English is often dated from the Great Vowel Shift , which took place mainly during the 15th century. The language was further transformed by the spread of a standardized London-based dialect in government and administration and by the standardizing effect of printing, which also tended to regularize capitalization. As a result, the language acquired self-conscious terms such as "accent" and "dialect". By the time of William Shakespeare mid 16th - early 17th century , [19] the language had become clearly recognizable as Modern English. In , the first English dictionary was published, the *Table Alphabeticall*. Increased literacy and travel facilitated the adoption of many foreign words, especially borrowings from Latin and Greek from the time of the Renaissance. In the 17th century, Latin words were often used with their original inflections, but these eventually disappeared. As there are many words from different languages and English spelling is variable, the risk of mispronunciation is high, but remnants of the older forms remain in a few regional dialects, most notably in the West Country. During the period, loan words were borrowed from Italian, German, and Yiddish. British acceptance of and resistance to Americanisms began during this period.

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Chapter 4 : A Brief History of the English Language

Updated to reflect current research and rewritten for further clarity of presentation, the seventh edition of the best-selling THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE continues to take a linguistic-analysis approach and focuses on the facts of language rather than on theoretical approaches.

History of English This page is a short history of the origins and development of the English language. The history of the English language really started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders - mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles came from "Englaland" [sic] and their language was called "Englisc" - from which the words "England" and "English" are derived. Germanic invaders entered Britain on the east and south coasts in the 5th century AD. The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which in Britain developed into what we now call Old English. Old English did not sound or look like English today. Native English speakers now would have great difficulty understanding Old English. Nevertheless, about half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots. The words *be*, *strong* and *water*, for example, derive from Old English. Old English was spoken until around 1100. The new conquerors called the Normans brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the Royal Court, and the ruling and business classes. For a period there was a kind of linguistic class division, where the lower classes spoke English and the upper classes spoke French. In the 14th century English became dominant in Britain again, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. It was the language of the great poet Chaucer, but it would still be difficult for native English speakers to understand today. From the 16th century the British had contact with many peoples from around the world. This, and the Renaissance of Classical learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language. The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the dialect of London, where most publishing houses were, became the standard. In the first English dictionary was published. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: Varieties of English From around 1600, the English colonization of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct American variety of English. Some English pronunciations and words "froze" when they reached America. Some expressions that the British call "Americanisms" are in fact original British expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost for a time in Britain for example *trash* for *rubbish*, *loan* as a verb instead of *lend*, and *fall* for *autumn*; another example, *frame-up*, was re-imported into Britain through Hollywood gangster movies. Spanish also had an influence on American English and subsequently British English, with words like *canyon*, *ranch*, *stampede* and *vigilante* being examples of Spanish words that entered English through the settlement of the American West. French words through Louisiana and West African words through the slave trade also influenced American English and so, to an extent, British English. Germanic is a branch of the Indo-European language family.

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Chapter 5 : The history of the English language - an introduction

History of English This page is a short history of the origins and development of the English language The history of the English language really started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD.

The closest undoubted living relatives of English are Scots and Frisian. Frisian is a language spoken by approximately half a million people in the Dutch province of Friesland, in nearby areas of Germany, and on a few islands in the North Sea. The history of the English language has traditionally been divided into three main periods: Over the centuries, the English language has been influenced by a number of other languages.

Old English - AD: These tribes were warlike and pushed out most of the original, Celtic-speaking inhabitants from England into Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall. One group migrated to the Brittany Coast of France where their descendants still speak the Celtic Language of Breton today. Through the years, the Saxons, Angles and Jutes mixed their different Germanic dialects. This group of dialects forms what linguists refer to as Old English or Anglo-Saxon. The Angles were named from Engle, their land of origin. Before the Saxons the language spoken in what is now England was a mixture of Latin and various Celtic languages which were spoken before the Romans came to Britain BC. Many of the words passed on from this era are those coined by Roman merchants and soldiers. These include win wine , candel candle , belt belt , weall wall. In fact, very few Celtic words have lived on in the English language. But many of place and river names have Celtic origins: The arrival of St. Augustine in and the introduction of Christianity into Saxon England brought more Latin words into the English language. They were mostly concerned with the naming of Church dignitaries, ceremonies, etc. Some, such as church, bishop, baptism, monk, eucharist and presbyter came indirectly through Latin from the Greek. Around AD Danes and Norsemen, also called Vikings, invaded the country and English got many Norse words into the language, particularly in the north of England. Words derived from Norse include: The most famous is a heroic epic poem called "Beowulf". It is the oldest known English poem and it is notable for its length - 3, lines. Experts say "Beowulf" was written in Britain more than one thousand years ago. The name of the person who wrote it is unknown.

Middle English circa AD: After William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, invaded and conquered England in AD with his armies and became king, he brought his nobles, who spoke French, to be the new government. The Old French took over as the language of the court, administration, and culture. Latin was mostly used for written language, especially that of the Church. Meanwhile, The English language, as the language of the now lower class, was considered a vulgar tongue. By about , England and France had split. English changed a lot, because it was mostly being spoken instead of written for about years. The use of Old English came back, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. Most of the words embedded in the English vocabulary are words of power, such as crown, castle, court, parliament, army, mansion, gown, beauty, banquet, art, poet, romance, duke, servant, peasant, traitor and governor. It was a massive sound change affecting the long vowels of English. Basically, the long vowels shifted upwards; that is, a vowel that used to be pronounced in one place in the mouth would be pronounced in a different place, higher up in the mouth. The Great Vowel Shift occurred during the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries. The portraits that he paints in his Tales give us an idea of what life was like in fourteenth century England.

Modern English to the present: Modern English developed after William Caxton established his printing press at Westminster Abbey in The Bible and some valuable manuscripts were printed. The invention of the printing press made books available to more people. The books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. There were three big developments in the world at the beginning of Modern English period: During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I there was an explosion of culture in the form of support of the arts, popularization of the printing press, and massive amounts of sea travel. England began the Industrial Revolution 18th century and this had also an effect on the development of the language as new words had to be invented or existing ones modified to cope with the rapid changes in technology. New technical words were added to the vocabulary as

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inventors designed various products and machinery. These words were named after the inventor or given the name of their choice trains, engine, pulleys, combustion, electricity, telephone, telegraph, camera etc. They sent people to settle and live in their conquered places and as settlers interacted with natives, new words were added to the English vocabulary. See more borrowings from different languages. English continues to change and develop, with hundreds of new words arriving every year. But even with all the borrowings from many other languages the heart of the English language remains the Anglo-Saxon of Old English. The grammar of English is also distinctly Germanic - three genders he, she and it and a simple set of verb tenses.

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Chapter 6 : Modern English - Wikipedia

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This broad family includes most of the European languages spoken today. The Indo-European family includes several major branches: Latin and the modern Romance languages French etc. The influence of the original Indo-European language can be seen today, even though no written record of it exists. The word for father, for example, is vater in German, pater in Latin, and pitr in Sanskrit. These words are all cognates, similar words in different languages that share the same root. Of these branches of the Indo-European family, two are, as far as the study of the development of English is concerned, of paramount importance, the Germanic and the Romance called that because the Romance languages derive from Latin, the language of ancient Rome. English is a member of the Germanic group of languages. It is believed that this group began as a common language in the Elbe river region about 3,000 years ago. By the second century BC, this Common Germanic language had split into three distinct sub-groups: East Germanic was spoken by peoples who migrated back to southeastern Europe. No East Germanic language is spoken today, and the only written East Germanic language that survives is Gothic. North Germanic evolved into the modern Scandinavian languages of Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, and Icelandic but not Finnish, which is related to Hungarian and Estonian and is not an Indo-European language. They spoke a mutually intelligible language, similar to modern Frisian - the language of the northeastern region of the Netherlands - that is called Old English. These invaders pushed the original, Celtic-speaking inhabitants out of what is now England into Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, and Ireland, leaving behind a few Celtic words. Cornish, unfortunately, is, in linguistic terms, now a dead language. The last native Cornish speaker died in 1777. Also influencing English at this time were the Vikings. Norse invasions and settlement, beginning around 800, brought many North Germanic words into the language, particularly in the north of England. The majority of words in modern English come from foreign, not Old English roots. In fact, only about one sixth of the known Old English words have descendants surviving today. But this is deceptive; Old English is much more important than these statistics would indicate. About half of the most commonly used words in modern English have Old English roots. Words like be, water, and strong, for example, derive from Old English roots. Old English, whose best known surviving example is the poem Beowulf, lasted until about 1100. Shortly after the most important event in the development and history of the English language, the Norman Conquest. The new overlords spoke a dialect of Old French known as Anglo-Norman. The Normans were also of Germanic stock "Norman" comes from "Norseman" and Anglo-Norman was a French dialect that had considerable Germanic influences in addition to the basic Latin roots. Prior to the Norman Conquest, Latin had been only a minor influence on the English language, mainly through vestiges of the Roman occupation and from the conversion of Britain to Christianity in the seventh century ecclesiastical terms such as priest, vicar, and mass came into the language this way, but now there was a wholesale infusion of Romance Anglo-Norman words. The influence of the Normans can be illustrated by looking at two words, beef and cow. Beef, commonly eaten by the aristocracy, derives from the Anglo-Norman, while the Anglo-Saxon commoners, who tended the cattle, retained the Germanic cow. Many legal terms, such as indict, jury, and verdict have Anglo-Norman roots because the Normans ran the courts. This split, where words commonly used by the aristocracy have Romance roots and words frequently used by the Anglo-Saxon commoners have Germanic roots, can be seen in many instances. Sometimes French words replaced Old English words; crime replaced firen and uncle replaced eam. Other times, French and Old English components combined to form a new word, as the French gentle and the Germanic man formed gentleman. Other times, two different words with roughly the same meaning survive into modern English. Thus we have the Germanic doom and the French judgment, or wish and desire. It is useful to compare various versions of a familiar text

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to see the differences between Old, Middle, and Modern English. Take for instance this Old English c. 1380. Rendered in Middle English Wyclif, , the same text is recognizable to the modern eye: And lede us not into temptacion but delyuere us from euyl. Our fater which art in heauen, hallowed be thy name. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heauen. Giue us this day our daily bread. And forgiue us our debts as we forgiue our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliuer us from euill. For a lengthier comparison of the three stages in the development of English click [here!](#) This began a process where the Norman nobles of England became increasingly estranged from their French cousins. England became the chief concern of the nobility, rather than their estates in France, and consequently the nobility adopted a modified English as their native tongue. About 1350 years later, the Black Death killed about one third of the English population. And as a result of this the labouring and merchant classes grew in economic and social importance, and along with them English increased in importance compared to Anglo-Norman. This mixture of the two languages came to be known as Middle English. Unlike Old English, Middle English can be read, albeit with difficulty, by modern English-speaking people. By 1362, the linguistic division between the nobility and the commoners was largely over. In that year, the Statute of Pleading was adopted, which made English the language of the courts and it began to be used in Parliament. The revival of classical scholarship brought many classical Latin and Greek words into the Language. These borrowings were deliberate and many bemoaned the adoption of these "inkhorn" terms, but many survive to this day. Many students having difficulty understanding Shakespeare would be surprised to learn that he wrote in modern English. Many familiar words and phrases were coined or first recorded by Shakespeare, some 2,000 words and countless idioms are his. Newcomers to Shakespeare are often shocked at the number of clichés contained in his plays, until they realize that he coined them and they became clichés afterwards. Words he bequeathed to the language include "critical," "leapfrog," "majestic," "dwindle," and "pedant. The first was the Great Vowel Shift. This was a change in pronunciation that began around 1450. Shakespeare, on the other hand, would be accented, but understandable. Vowel sounds began to be made further to the front of the mouth and the letter "e" at the end of words became silent. In Middle English name was pronounced "nam-a," five was pronounced "feef," and down was pronounced "doon. The shift is still not over, however, vowel sounds are still shortening although the change has become considerably more gradual. The last major factor in the development of Modern English was the advent of the printing press. William Caxton brought the printing press to England in 1476. Books became cheaper and as a result, literacy became more common. Publishing for the masses became a profitable enterprise, and works in English, as opposed to Latin, became more common. Finally, the printing press brought standardization to English. The dialect of London, where most publishing houses were located, became the standard. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the first English dictionary was published in 1604. Late-Modern English Present The principal distinction between early- and late-modern English is vocabulary. Pronunciation, grammar, and spelling are largely the same, but Late-Modern English has many more words. These words are the result of two historical factors. The first is the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the technological society. This necessitated new words for things and ideas that had not previously existed. The second was the British Empire. The industrial and scientific revolutions created a need for neologisms to describe the new creations and discoveries. For this, English relied heavily on Latin and Greek. Words like oxygen, protein, nuclear, and vaccine did not exist in the classical languages, but they were created from Latin and Greek roots. Such neologisms were not exclusively created from classical roots though, English roots were used for such terms as horsepower, airplane, and typewriter. This burst of neologisms continues today, perhaps most visible in the field of electronics and computers. Byte, cyber-, bios, hard-drive, and microchip are good examples. Also, the rise of the British Empire and the growth of global trade served not only to introduce English to the world, but to introduce words into English. Hindi, and the other languages of the Indian subcontinent, provided many words, such as pundit, shampoo, pajamas, and juggernaut. Virtually every language on Earth has contributed to the development of English, from Finnish sauna and Japanese tycoon to the vast contributions of French and Latin. The British Empire was a maritime empire, and the influence of nautical terms on the English

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language has been great. Phrases like three sheets to the wind have their origins onboard ships. Finally, the military influence on the language during the latter half of twentieth century was significant. Before the Great War, military service for English-speaking persons was rare; both Britain and the United States maintained small, volunteer militaries. Military slang existed, but with the exception of nautical terms, rarely influenced standard English. During the mid-twentieth century, however, a large number of British and American men served in the military. And consequently military slang entered the language like never before. Blockbuster, nose dive, camouflage, radar, roadblock, spearhead, and landing strip are all military terms that made their way into standard English. American English and other varieties Also significant beginning around AD was the English colonization of North America and the subsequent creation of American English. Some pronunciations and usages "froze" when they reached the American shore. Some "Americanisms" are actually originally English English expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost at home e.

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Chapter 7 : History of English - Wikipedia

What are the origins of the English Language? The history of English is conventionally, if perhaps too neatly, divided into three periods usually called Old English (or Anglo-Saxon), Middle English, and Modern English.

Later on the Jutes settled in Kent and the southern Hampshire, the Saxons in the rest of the south of the Thames area and the modern Middlesex, and the Angles spread throughout the rest of England and as far as up to the Scottish lowlands. The Jutes, Saxons and Angles still held their dialects separately. Later on two separate Anglian dialects developed. The dialect of the north of Humber river was called Northumbrian and of the south was called the Mercian. Also the Saxons dialect was called West Saxon as they were settled in the west, and the dialect of Jutes was called the Kentish who were on the southern and eastern sides of the river Thames. Thus, there were four main dialects in England. In the beginning, the Northumbrians held prominence in literature and culture, but after the Viking invasions the cultural leadership went to the West Saxon group. Old English 9th and 10th century. The English language uses the Latin alphabet of 26 consonants and vowels. In the beginning there were very few words of general use like, words of kinship: There were two demonstratives: Hors horse and maegden maiden were neuter gender; eorthe earth was feminine but lond land was neuter; sunne sun was feminine, but mona moon was masculine. Inflections were used in abundance, so the word order in a sentence was not of much importance in those days as long as the theme was understood. But Old English is totally incomprehensible for a Modern English knower. It was more like the modern German of today. Hie ne dorston forth bi th ere ea siglan They dared not sail beyond that river. Modern English onward. The extensive two volume work of Samuel Johnson was simplified by the single volume of his dictionary in which continued to be used up to the 20th century. In fact, since the 13th century, every century had its reformers of the English language. The grammarians of the 18th century like Robert Lowth and James Buchanan etc. During that period Noah Webster produced his Spelling Book in 1783, the first edition of his American Dictionary of English Language in 1783 and a subsequent edition in 1828 Vocabulary of Modern English. The vocabulary of English language is a mixture of Germanic Old English and Scandinavian, Greek, Latin and French where almost half of it is Germanic and Greek and half is Latin and French with some of the words from almost all of the notable languages of the world as it had taken free admission from everywhere. A sample of other adaptations are: Spanish-cigar, mosquito, tornado, tomato tomate and potato patata. Hebrew-amen, manna, messiah, rabbi and jubilee. Portuguese-marmalade, flamingo and molasses. Turkish-turban, coffee and caviar. Hindi-sahib, maharajah, jungle, cheetah, karma, mantra and dhoti. Persian-divan, purdah, bazaar and chess. Malay-ketchup, sago and bamboo. African languages-mumbo jumbo and voodoo. Caribbean-hammock, hurricane and tobacco. These are just a few examples of adaptations. Murray and assisted by three more editors, Bradley, Charles Onions and Craigie, was published in 12 volumes along with its supplements from 1888 to 1913. It gives the inventory and the history of words in use from up to of all the five dialects of the Middle English. After only literary English words are taken, not the dialecticals. It enormously contains the quotations from the English literature and records, and incorporates the words that have entered into English vocabulary from the earliest records to the existing date along with their history and origin. It contains more than 15, pages and over 400,000 words. Dialects of Modern English. There are a number of dialects and subdialects in United Kingdom. The latest form of the most advanced English language. The English language is considered to be the world language of today. It has an extensive amount of words not found in other languages and its rich vocabulary may sufficiently accommodate all the situations of a social and technical nature. But, even at the maximum height of its evolution which took a full 1, years since the arrival of the Germanic people in England in the 5th century AD could you be sure of the spellings of the names of people or their pronunciations unless you are told? It is because the basic alphabetic structure was scientifically wrong from the very beginning; and this is the case with all other languages of the world.

Chapter 8 : The history of English | Oxford Dictionaries

The main part of this website, the History, can be read as a kind of story, in chapters, following the development of the English language from its Indo-European origins, through Old English and Middle English to Early Modern English and Late Modern English, before a brief look at English Today.

This website uses cookies that provide targeted advertising and which track your use of this website. You can change your cookie settings at any time. Little is known of this period with any certainty, but we do know that Germanic invaders came and settled in Britain from the north-western coastline of continental Europe in the fifth and sixth centuries. However it is fairly certain that many of the settlers would have spoken in exactly the same way as some of their north European neighbours, and that not all of the settlers would have spoken in the same way. The reason that we know so little about the linguistic situation in this period is because we do not have much in the way of written records from any of the Germanic languages of north-western Europe until several centuries later. When Old English writings begin to appear in the seventh, eighth, and ninth centuries there is a good deal of regional variation, but not substantially more than that found in later periods. The Celts were already resident in Britain when the Anglo-Saxons arrived, but there are few obvious traces of their language in English today. Some scholars have suggested that the Celtic tongue might have had an underlying influence on the grammatical development of English, particularly in some parts of the country, but this is highly speculative. The number of loanwords known for certain to have entered Old English from this source is very small. Those that survive in modern English include brock badger, and coomb a type of valley, alongside many place names. The Scandinavian Settlements The next invaders were the Norsemen. From the middle of the ninth century large numbers of Norse invaders settled in Britain, particularly in northern and eastern areas, and in the eleventh century the whole of England had a Danish king, Canute. The distinct North Germanic speech of the Norsemen had great influence on English, most obviously seen in the words that English has borrowed from this source. These include some very basic words such as take and even grammatical words such as they. The common Germanic base of the two languages meant that there were still many similarities between Old English and the language of the invaders. Some words, for example give, perhaps show a kind of hybridization with some spellings going back to Old English and others being Norse in origin. However, the resemblances between the two languages are so great that in many cases it is impossible to be sure of the exact ancestry of a particular word or spelling. However, much of the influence of Norse, including the vast majority of the loanwords, does not appear in written English until after the next great historical and cultural upheaval, the Norman Conquest. In the course of what is called the Middle English period, the fairly rich inflectional system of Old English broke down. It was replaced by what is broadly speaking, the same system English has today, which unlike Old English makes very little use of distinctive word endings in the grammar of the language. The vocabulary of English also changed enormously, with tremendous numbers of borrowings from French and Latin, in addition to the Scandinavian loanwords already mentioned, which were slowly starting to appear in the written language. Old English, like German today, showed a tendency to find native equivalents for foreign words and phrases although both Old English and modern German show plenty of loanwords, whereas Middle English acquired the habit that modern English retains today of readily accommodating foreign words. Trilingualism in English, French, and Latin was common in the worlds of business and the professions, with words crossing over from one language to another with ease. You only have to flick through the etymologies of any English dictionary to get an impression of the huge number of words entering English from French and Latin during the later medieval period. This trend was set to continue into the early modern period with the explosion of interest in the writings of the ancient world. Standardization The late medieval and early modern periods saw a fairly steady process of standardization in English south of the Scottish border. The written and spoken language of London continued to evolve and gradually began to have a greater influence in the country at large. For most of the Middle

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English period a dialect was simply what was spoken in a particular area, which would normally be more or less represented in writing - although where and from whom the writer had learnt how to write were also important. It was only when the broadly London standard began to dominate, especially through the new technology of printing, that the other regional varieties of the language began to be seen as different in kind. As the London standard became used more widely, especially in more formal contexts and particularly amongst the more elevated members of society, the other regional varieties came to be stigmatized, as lacking social prestige and indicating a lack of education. In the same period a series of changes also occurred in English pronunciation though not uniformly in all dialects, which go under the collective name of the Great Vowel Shift. The phonetic pairings of most long and short vowel sounds were also lost, which gave rise to many of the oddities of English pronunciation, and which now obscure the relationships between many English words and their foreign counterparts. Colonization and Globalization During the medieval and early modern periods the influence of English spread throughout the British Isles, and from the early seventeenth century onwards its influence began to be felt throughout the world. Words were absorbed from all over the world, often via the languages of other trading and imperial nations such as Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands. At the same time, new varieties of English emerged, each with their own nuances of vocabulary and grammar and their own distinct pronunciations. More recently still, English has become a lingua franca, a global language, regularly used and understood by many nations for whom English is not their first language. The eventual effects on the English language of both of these developments can only be guessed at today, but there can be little doubt that they will be as important as anything that has happened to English in the past sixteen hundred years.

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Chapter 9 : (24) The development of the English language.

English accompanied Hindi as an associate official language and the language of administration. Thus we have seen how the then 'Foreign Language' became the associate official language in India. If we look at the development and growth of the English language in the past six decades, we can say that it is an amazing story.

Knowledge of the pre-Wycliffite English renditions stems from the many actual manuscripts that have survived and from secondary literature, such as book lists, wills, citations by later authors, and references in polemical works that have preserved the memory of many a translation effort. Origins and basic characteristics English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and is therefore related to most other languages spoken in Europe and western Asia from Iceland to India. The parent tongue, called Proto-Indo-European, was spoken about 5,000 years ago by nomads believed to have roamed the southeast European plains. Germanic, one of the language groups descended from this ancestral speech, is usually divided by scholars into three regional groups: Though closely related to English, German remains far more conservative than English in its retention of a fairly elaborate system of inflections. Frisian, spoken by the inhabitants of the Dutch province of Friesland and the islands off the west coast of Schleswig, is the language most nearly related to Modern English. Icelandic, which has changed little over the last thousand years, is the living language most nearly resembling Old English in grammatical structure. Approximate locations of Indo-European languages in contemporary Eurasia. Modern English is analytic. During the course of thousands of years, English words have been slowly simplified from the inflected variable forms found in Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Russian, and German, toward invariable forms, as in Chinese and Vietnamese. The German and Chinese words for the noun man are exemplary. German has five forms: Chinese has one form: English stands in between, with four forms: In English, only nouns, pronouns as in he, him, his, adjectives as in big, bigger, biggest, and verbs are inflected. English is the only European language to employ uninflected adjectives; e. As for verbs, if the Modern English word ride is compared with the corresponding words in Old English and Modern German, it will be found that English now has only 5 forms ride, rides, rode, riding, ridden, whereas Old English ridan had 13, and Modern German reiten has 16. In addition to the simplicity of inflections, English has two other basic characteristics: Flexibility of function has grown over the last five centuries as a consequence of the loss of inflections. Words formerly distinguished as nouns or verbs by differences in their forms are now often used as both nouns and verbs. One can speak, for example, of planning a table or tabling a plan, booking a place or placing a book, lifting a thumb or thumbing a lift. In the other Indo-European languages, apart from rare exceptions in Scandinavian languages, nouns and verbs are never identical because of the necessity of separate noun and verb endings. In English, forms for traditional pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs can also function as nouns; adjectives and adverbs as verbs; and nouns, pronouns, and adverbs as adjectives. One speaks in English of the Frankfurt Book Fair, but in German one must add the suffix -er to the place-name and put attributive and noun together as a compound, Frankfurter Buchmesse. In French one has no choice but to construct a phrase involving the use of two prepositions: Foire du Livre de Francfort. In English it is now possible to employ a plural noun as adjunct modifier, as in wages board and sports editor; or even a conjunctive group, as in prices and incomes policy and parks and gardens committee. Any word class may alter its function in this way: Openness of vocabulary implies both free admission of words from other languages and the ready creation of compounds and derivatives. English adopts without change or adapts with slight change any word really needed to name some new object or to denote some new process. Words from more than 200 languages have entered English in this way. Although a Germanic language in its sounds and grammar, the bulk of English vocabulary is in fact Romance or Classical in origin. English possesses a system of orthography that does not always accurately reflect the pronunciation of words; see below Orthography. Characteristics of Modern English Phonology British Received Pronunciation RP, traditionally defined as the standard speech used in London and southeastern England, is one of many forms or accents of standard

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speech throughout the English-speaking world. Other pronunciations, although not standard, are often heard in the public domain. It is considered the prestige accent in such institutions as the civil service and the BBC and, as such, has fraught associations with wealth and privilege in Britain. Elizabethan English pronunciation Hear the original pronunciation of Elizabethan English as demonstrated and explained by British linguist David Crystal and his actor son, Ben Crystal. Inland Northern American vowels sometimes have semiconsonantal final glides *i*. Aside from the final glides, that American accent shows four divergences from British English: In several American accents, however, these glides do occur. The 24 consonant sounds comprise six stops plosives: Like Russian, English is a strongly stressed language. Four degrees of accentuation may be differentiated: French stress may be sustained in many borrowed words; e. Pitch, or musical tone, determined chiefly by the rate of vibration of the vocal cords, may be level, falling, rising, or falling-rising. In counting one, two, three, four, one naturally gives level pitch to each of these cardinal numerals. But if people say I want two, not one, they naturally give two a falling tone and one a falling-rising tone. In the question One? Word tone is called accent, and sentence tone is referred to as intonation. The end-of-sentence cadence is important for expressing differences in meaning. Several end-of-sentence intonations are possible, but three are especially common: Falling intonation is used in completed statements, direct commands, and sometimes in general questions unanswerable by yes or no e. Rising intonation is frequently used in open-ended statements made with some reservation, in polite requests, and in particular questions answerable by yes or no e. The third type of end-of-sentence intonation, first falling and then rising pitch, is used in sentences that imply concessions or contrasts e. Intonation is on the whole less singsong in American than in British English, and there is a narrower range of pitch. Everywhere English is spoken, regional accents display distinctive patterns of intonation. Inflection Modern English nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs are inflected. Adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections are invariable. Most English nouns have plural inflection in *-e s*, but that form shows variations in pronunciation in the words *cats* with a final *s* sound, *dogs* with a final *z* sound, and *horses* with a final *iz* sound, as also in the 3rd person singular present-tense forms of verbs: Seven nouns have mutated unlauded plurals: Three have plurals in *-en*: Some remain unchanged e. Five of the seven personal pronouns have distinctive forms for subject and object e. Adjectives have distinctive endings for comparison e. The forms of verbs are not complex. Only the substantive verb *to be* has eight forms: Strong verbs have five forms: Regular or weak verbs customarily have four: Some that end in *t* or *d* have three forms only: In addition to the above inflections, English employs two other main morphological structural processes—affixation and composition—and two subsidiary ones—back-formation and blend. Affixation Affixes, word elements attached to words, may either precede, as prefixes do, *undo*; *way*, *subway*, or follow, as suffixes do, *doer*; *way*, *wayward*. They may be native *overdo*, *waywardness*, Greek *hyperbole*, *thesis*, or Latin *supersede*, *pediment*. Suffixes are bound more closely than prefixes to the stems or root elements of words. Consider, for instance, the wide variety of agent suffixes in the nouns *actor*, *artisan*, *dotard*, *engineer*, *financier*, *hireling*, *magistrate*, *merchant*, *scientist*, *secretary*, *songster*, *student*, and *worker*. Suffixes may come to be attached to stems quite fortuitously, but, once attached, they are likely to be permanent. At the same time, one suffix can perform many functions. The suffix *-er* denotes the doer of the action in the words *worker*, *driver*, and *hunter*; the instrument in *chopper*, *harvester*, and *roller*; and the dweller in *Icelander*, *Londoner*, and *Trobriander*. Usage may prove capricious. Whereas a *writer* is a person, a *typewriter* is a machine. For some time a *computer* was both, but now the word is no longer used of persons. Composition Composition, or compounding, is concerned with free forms. The primary compounds *cloverleaf*, *gentleman*, and less obviously, because of the spelling already show the collocation of two free forms. They differ from word groups or phrases in stress, juncture, or vowel quality or by a combination of these. Thus, *already* differs from *all ready* in stress and juncture, *cloverleaf* from *clover leaf* in stress, and *gentleman* from *gentle man* in vowel quality, stress, and juncture. In describing the structure of compound words it is necessary to take into account the relation of components to each other and the relation of the whole compound to its components. These relations diverge widely in, for example, the words *cloverleaf*, *icebreaker*, *breakwater*, *blackbird*,

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peace-loving, and paperback. In cloverleaf the first component noun is attributive and modifies the second, as also in the terms aircraft, beehive, landmark, lifeline, network, and vineyard. Icebreaker, however, is a compound made up of noun object plus agent noun, itself consisting of verb plus agent suffix, as also in the words bridgebuilder, landowner, metalworker, minelayer, and timekeeper. The next type consists of verb plus object. The English pastime may be compared, for example, with the French passe-temps, the Spanish pasatiempo, and the Italian passatempo. As for the blackbird type, consisting of attributive adjective plus noun, it occurs frequently, as in the terms bluebell, grandson, shorthand, and wildfire. The next type, composed of object noun and a present participle, as in the terms fact-finding, heart-rending German herzzerreissend, life-giving German lebenspendend, painstaking, and time-consuming, occurs rarely. The last type is seen in barefoot, bluebeard, hunchback, leatherneck, redbreast, and scatterbrain. Back-formations, blends, and other types of word-formation Back-formations and blends are widespread. Back-formation is the reverse of affixation, being the analogical creation of a new word from an existing word falsely assumed to be its derivative. For example, the verb to edit has been formed from the noun editor on the reverse analogy of the noun actor from to act, and similarly the verbs automate, bulldoze, commute, escalate, liaise, loaf, sightsee, and televise are backformed from the nouns automation, bulldozer, commuter, escalation, liaison, loafer, sightseer, and television. From the single noun procession are backformed two verbs with different stresses and meanings: In the first group are the words clash, from clack and crash, and geep, offspring of goat and sheep. To the second group belong dormobiles, or dormitory automobiles, and slurbs, or slum suburbs.