

## ★ Origin and history of English

### ☼ Old English (Σ0♦ - 11♦♦AD)

- The invading Germanic tribes spoke similar languages, which developed into what we now call Old English.
- 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 11♦♦.

450 - 480	Earliest Known Old English inscriptions.
1066	William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy , invades and conquers

Ex:

Q. The Old English between the Σ0♦ to .....?

- 11♦♦

Q. The Old English came from where?

- Germanic tribes spoke similar languages.

Q. Is Anglo-Saxon another name for .....?

- Old English.

### ☼ Middle English (11♦♦ - 15♦♦)

In 1066 William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy (part of modern France), invaded and conquered England. 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 12th 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 (c. 1340-1400), but it would still be difficult for native English speakers to understand today.

c1150	Earliest surviving manuscripts in Middle English.
1348	English replaces Latin as the language of instruction in most schools.
1362	English replaces French as the language of law. English is used in Parliament for the first time.
c1388	Chaucer starts writing The Canterbury Tales.
c1400	The Great Vowel Shift begins.

Ex:

Q. The middle English between the 12<sup>th</sup> to .....?

- the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Q. In the middle English upper classes spoke.....?

- French.

Q. In the middle English lower classes spoke.....?

- English .

## ☀ Modern English:

### ☀ Early Modern English (1500 - 1800)

Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 17th 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 1602 the first English dictionary was published.

1476	William Caxton establishes the first English printing press.
1564	Shakespeare is born.
1604	Table Alphabetical, the first English dictionary, is published.
1607	The first permanent English settlement in the New World (Jamestown) is established.
1616	Shakespeare dies.
1623	Shakespeare's First Folio is published.
1702	The first daily English-language newspaper, The Daily Courant, is published in London.
1755	Samuel Johnson published his English dictionary.
1776	Thomas Jefferson writes the American Declaration of Independence.
1782	Britain <u>abandons</u> its American colonies.

Q. The Early Modern English between the 16<sup>th</sup> to .....?

- the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Q. 'The Great Vowel Shift', which took place in.....?

- Early Modern English.

Q. The first English dictionary was published In.....?

- 1604

### ✧ Late Modern English (18<sup>th</sup> - Present)

The main difference between Early Modern English and Late Modern English is vocabulary. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, the Industrial Revolution and technology created a need for new words; secondly, the British Empire at its height covered one quarter of the earth's surface, and the English language adopted foreign words from many countries.

1828	Webster published his American English dictionary.
1922	The British Broadcasting Corporation is founded.
1928	The Oxford English Dictionary is published.

### ★ 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. In some ways, American English is more like the English of Shakespeare than modern British English is. 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).

Today, American English is particularly influential, due to the USA's dominance of cinema, television, popular music, trade and technology (including the Internet). But there are many other varieties of English around the world, including for example Australian English, New Zealand English, Canadian English, South African English, Indian English and Caribbean English.

- English is a member of the Germanic family of languages.
- Germanic is a branch of the Indo-European language family.

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أخوكم/

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