



A journey through the English language



Will talk about....

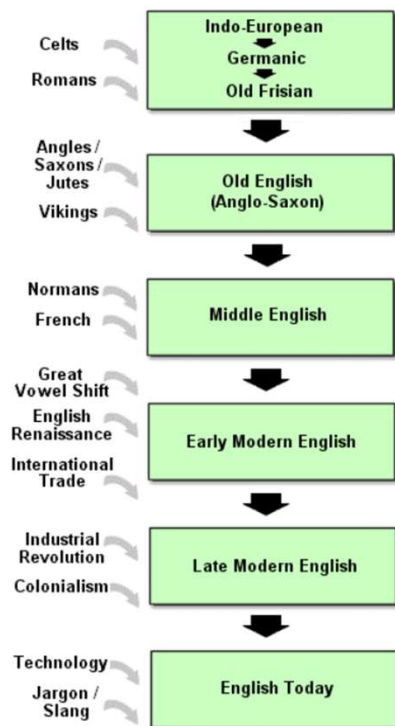
- How the language evolved
 - Old words we still use
 - New fashions
 - Cockney rhyming slang (first used early 19th century)
 - American-English (1776 onwards)
 - Hippy speak (started in the 1960's)
 - Text speak (late 1990's onwards)
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A journey through the English language

English language evolution really started after the Romans left Britain circa 400



A journey through the English language



Romans left Britain about 400AD
Pre- 450

450 – 1066

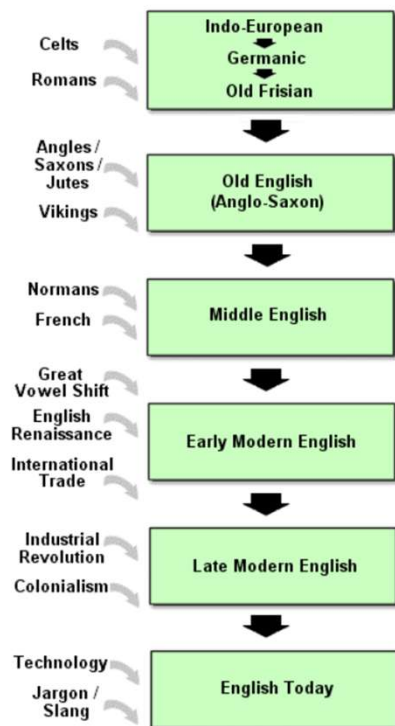
1066 – 1450

1450 – 1800

1800 onwards

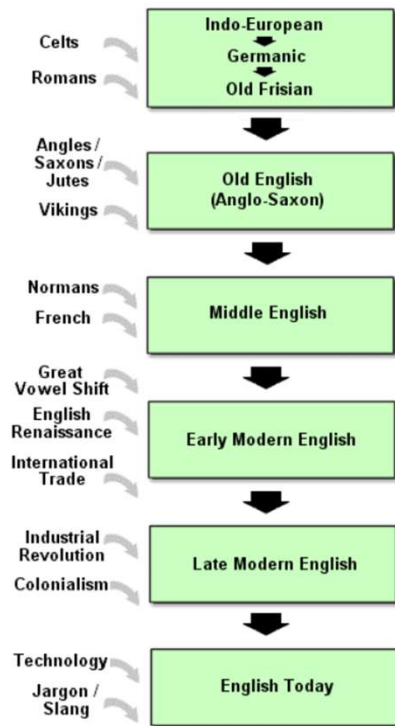
Late 1900's onwards

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Why is history important

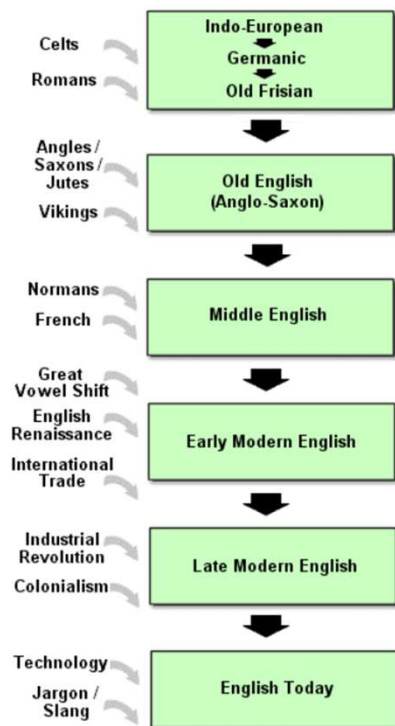
A journey through the English language



Why is history important

The past shapes the future

A journey through the English language

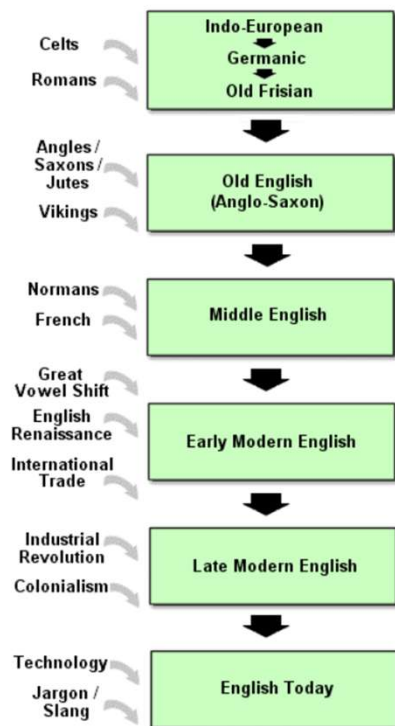


Why is history important

The past shapes the future

Language evolves

A journey through the English language



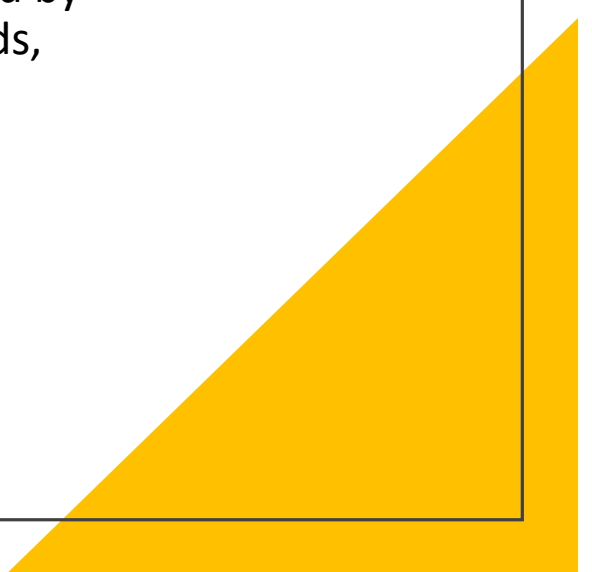
Why is history important

The past shapes the future

Language evolves

Not just language that evolves,
e.g. music evolves

Indo- European, Germanic, Old Saxon (pre-450 AD)

- Ingvaeonic (North Sea Germanic) language brought to England by Anglo-Saxon migrants from what is now Germany, Netherlands, and Denmark
 - Dominant in Southern England
 - Started to displace the Celtic languages
- 
- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

Old English (c 450-1066)

c 450 Settlement of
Anglo-Saxon tribes
speaking German dialects

c 800-950 Viking
invasions, assimilation of
words from Old Norse

1066 Norman conquest –
William the conqueror.
Germanic elite replaced
with Norman French
speakers

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Example words from Old English

- BETWIXT → BETWEEN

- UNFRIEND (referred to an enemy)

Now used in social media

Middle English (1066 – c 1450)



1066 Norman conquest



William the conqueror defeats King Harold at Battle of Hastings



Norman French speakers starts to replace Germanic speakers, initially in the aristocracy



Middle English (1066 – c 1450)



Beef is not called cow because of the Norman Conquest of 1066, which created a linguistic divide between the French-speaking ruling class and the English-speaking peasant farmers.

The Normans used the French word *boeuf* (from Latin *bovinus*) for the meat they ate, while the Anglo-Saxon peasants continued to use the word "cow" for the live animal they raised.

This resulted in English retaining separate words for the live animal (cow) and its meat (beef).






Middle English (1066 – c 1450)

Dual vocabulary

- The Norman influence also led to a dual vocabulary where French-derived words are often more formal than their Anglo-Saxon counterparts. [🔗](#)
- **Examples:**
 - **Animal (English) vs. Meat (Norman):** cow vs. beef, sheep vs. mutton, pig vs. pork [🔗](#)
 - **Other pairs:** ask vs. demand, drink vs. beverage, freedom vs. liberty [🔗](#)

Middle English (1066 – c 1450)

More Norman words in English:

- **Government and Law:** parliament, attorney, judge, justice, council, government, chancellor 
- **Food:** beef, pork, mutton, veal, pork, and terms like "cuisine" and "sauce" 
- **Nobility and Warfare:** duke, baron, prince, sir, armour, dungeon, castle, soldier, army 
- **Religion:** abbey, parish, prayer, mass, clergy, friar, priest 
- **General vocabulary:** Words related to fashion ("petite," "chic"), arts ("ballet"), and everyday objects like "chair," "table," and "palace". 

Early Modern English (c 1450 – c 1800)

- c 1600 British Empire spreads English around the world
- The language of Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)
 - - Good Morrow → Hello
 - - Aye → Yes
 - - Nay → No
- Pronunciation changes
- Great vowel shift



Great Vowel Shift

- ‘u’ and ‘v’ – variants of same letter
- ‘y’ rather than ‘i’
 - Thou be not so handy for euer to do vyolence vnto

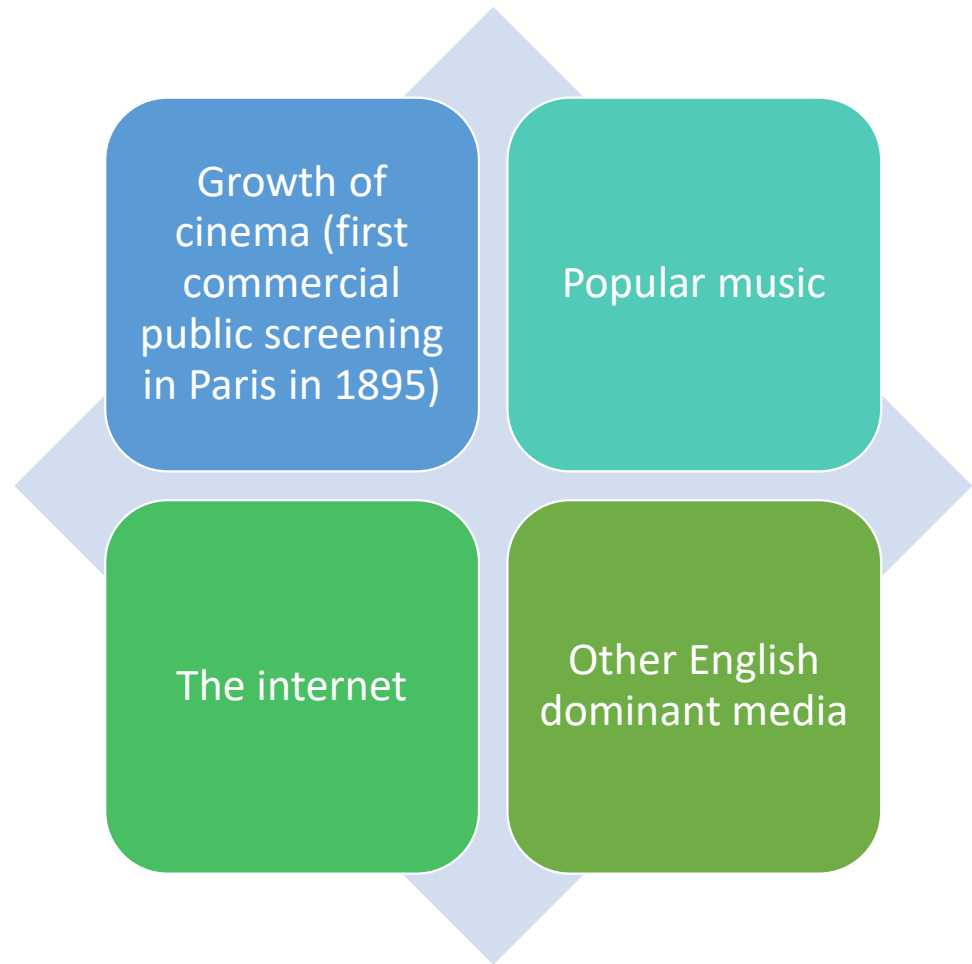
‘j’ extended form of ‘i’

‘e’ used a lot more

- whiche they ben justely adiuged

Loads of others – I am not an expert 😊

Late
Modern
English (c
1800 →)



Inconsistencies in English language



The words "cough," "rough," and "dough" have different pronunciations, despite all containing "ough".



"cough" is pronounced with an "off" sound



"rough" with an "uff" sound and



"dough" with an "oh" sound.



This is due to English pronunciation inconsistencies, where the "ough" combination can be pronounced in many ways depending on the word

New fashions – Cockney Rhyming Slang

- Originated in the East End of London
- Many of its expressions have passed into common language
- A way of obscuring the meaning of sentences to those who did not understand the slang
- A matter of speculation whether this was a linguistic accident, or whether it was developed intentionally to assist criminals, or to maintain a particular community.
- Works by replacing the word to be obscured with the first word of a phrase that rhymes with that word



New fashions
– Cockney
Rhyming
Slang



THE LONDON MARATHON

New fashions – Cockney Rhyming Slang

- "feet" becomes "plates" ("plates of meat")
- "money" is "bread" (a very common usage, from "bread and honey")
- Sometimes the full phrase is used, for example "Currant Bun" to mean "The Sun"
- No hard and fast rule for this, and you just have to know whether a particular expression is always shortened, never shortened, or can be used either way - inconsistencies here too as in all English

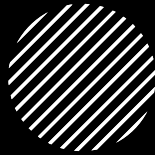


New fashions – Cockney Rhyming Slang

- Adam and Eve = believe = as in "would you Adam and Eve it?"
- Apples and pears = stairs = as in "get up them Apples"
- (Aunt) Joanna = piano
- Barnet = Barnet Fair = hair = as in "I'm washing my barnet"
- Boat = boat race = face = as in "go and wash your boat"
- Boracic (freq. contracted to brassic) = boracic lint = skint (i.e. penniless) = as in "I can't go out, I'm brassic"
- Brown bread = dead = as in "He's brown bread"

https://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Words04/usage/slang_cockney.html

New fashions – American English



UK English with spelling mistakes!
(sorry, could not resist 😊)

- I'll go get my tin hat!!



New fashions – American English

Unique spellings such as "flavor" for "flavour" and "center" for "centre"

American English includes different vocabulary, like "apartment" instead of "flat" and "french fries" instead of "chips," and "chips" instead of "crisps"

It also features distinctive grammar, pronunciation, and slang, like using "gotten" as the past participle of "get" and saying "dude" or "you all".



New Fashions – American English



British	American
anticlockwise	counter
appetizer	starter
aubergine	eggplant
biscuit	cookie
boot	trunk
braces	suspenders
candyfloss	cotton candy
car park	parking lot
chemist	drugstore
chips	French fries
cot	crib
courgette	zucchini
crisps	chips
drawing pin	thumbtack
dressing gown	robe
dummy	pacifier
dustbin	garbage can
flannel	washcloth
flat	apartment
football	soccer
fringe	bangs
grill	broil

British	American
grill	broiler
hairslide	barrette
holiday	vacation
jumper	sweater
lift	elevator
mobile phone	cell phone
number plate	license plate
off-licence	liquor store
oven glove	oven mitt
parting	part
pavement	sidewalk
petrol	gas, gasoline
postbox	mailbox
postcode	zip code
public school	private school
pushchair	stroller
shopping trolley	shopping cart
skipping rope	jump rope
sledge	sled
state school	public school

Hippy speak

- I was one of them in the late 60's – early 70's



Hippy speak

Hippie speak includes slang terms for positive approval like "groovy" and "far out"

Words related to the counterculture movement such as "peace man," "the establishment," and "flower power"

Other common phrases include "right on" for agreement, "heavy" for something profound, and "cool" or "hip" for being fashionable or in the know.

Hippy speak



“cat” – generally referred to a male. E.g. “He’s a cool cat”



“dig” – to understand, to agree with. E.g. “I dig that speaker, he’s a cool cat”




“gig” – a concert (nowadays wider meaning e.g. could be a job E.g. “That’s a cool gig that cat has got, teaching in the university”

Common hippy slang

- **Groovy:** Cool, awesome, or pleasing.
- **Far out:** An expression of amazement or approval.
- **Right on:** A form of agreement or approval.
- **Outta sight:** Awesome or stunning.
- **Heavy:** Deeply profound or something that weighs on your conscience.
- **Hip:** Fashionable or in-the-know.
- **Cool:** A timeless term for something that is good.
- **Dig:** To understand.
- **Threads:** Clothes.
- **Cat:** A term for "man".
- **Mama:** A term of endearment for a female significant other.

Common hippy phrases and concepts

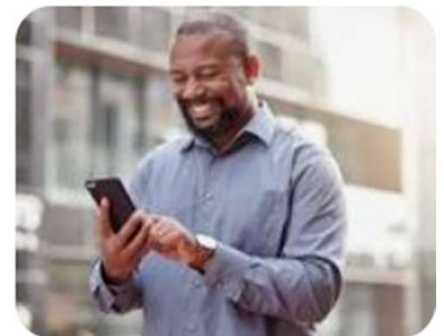


- Peace, man: A greeting or farewell expressing a desire for peace.
- Make love, not war: A slogan opposing violence and promoting peace and love.
- Flower Power: A slogan symbolizing the peace movement, often associated with giving flowers to authority figures.
- The establishment: The government and mainstream society that the counterculture rejected.

Text speak!!

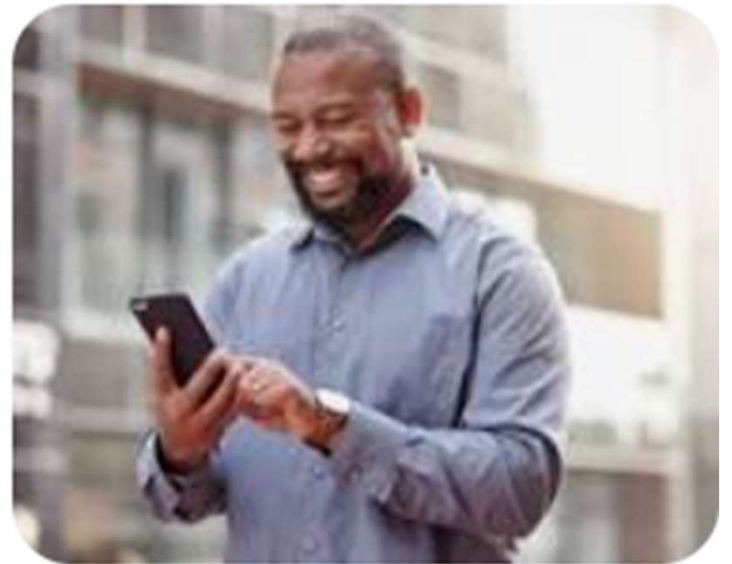
Common abbreviations and acronyms:

- **ASAP:** As soon as possible
- **BRB:** Be right back
- **BTW:** By the way
- **FYI:** For your information
- **GTG/G2G:** Got to go
- **IKR:** I know, right?
- **LMAO:** Laughing my a** off
- **LMK:** Let me know
- **LOL:** Laugh out loud
- **NVM:** Never mind
- **OMG:** Oh my God
- **RN:** Right now
- **SMH:** Shaking my head
- **TBH:** To be honest
- **TGIF:** Thank God it's Friday
- **TMI:** Too much information



Text speak!!

Has it's place and uses, i.e. In text messages



Text speak!!

Has it's place and uses, i.e. In text messages

Using it in emails.... Mildly irritating



Text speak!!

Has it's place and uses, i.e. In text messages

Using it in emails.... Mildly irritating

Using it in academic work....



The future

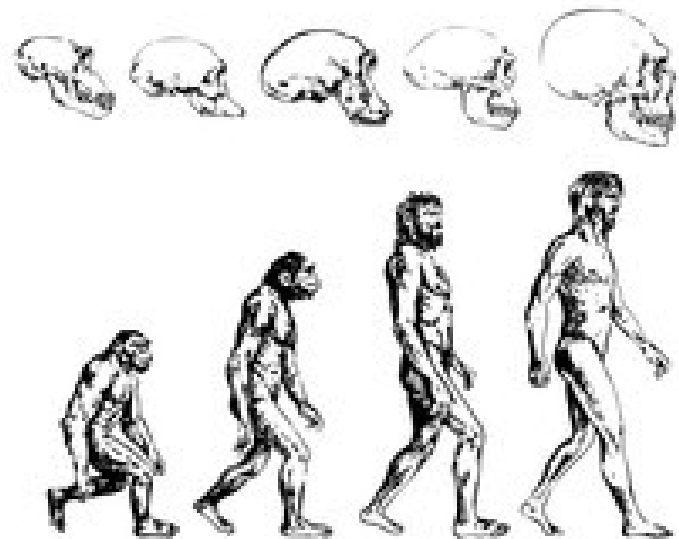
New words being created all the time:

- Angsting – feel or express anxiety
- Blert – A fool
- Chicanery – use of trickery to achieve goal
- Denialist – a person who refuses to admit the truth
- Gaffe – a social blunder

And one final thing....

Neanderthal man communication still exists

IT's called TEENAGE SPEAK 😊





The End

Thankyou for listening

Hope you did not feel like
you were back at school

Any Questions?