

History of the English Language

Prof. Holger Diessel

1. Review of Phonetics/Phonology

Classification of consonants

Consonants are classified along three dimensions:

1. Voicing
2. Manner of articulation: degree of constriction in the oral cavity
3. Place of articulation: constriction in the front or back of oral cavity

Voiced and unvoiced speech sounds

[f]	'father'	[v]	'vase'
[s]	'salt'	[z]	'zoo'
[t]	'tree'	[d]	'door'

Manner of articulation

Plosives	[p] [b] [t] [d] [k] [g]	[c] [ɟ] [q] [G]
Fricatives	[f] [v] [θ] [ð] [s] [z] [ʃ] [ʒ]	[ç] [x]
Affricates	[tʃ] [dʒ]	[tʃ] [pf]
Nasals	[m] [n] [ŋ]	[ŋ]
Liquids	[l] [r]	[R]
Glides	[w] [y]	

Place of articulation

Bilabial:	[p] [b] [m] [w]	
Labiodental:	[f] [v]	
Interdental:	[θ] [ð]	
Alveolar:	[t] [d] [s] [z] [n] [l] [r]	
Palatal-alveolar:	[ʃ] [ʒ] [tʃ] [dʒ] [y]	[c] [ɟ] [ŋ]
Velar:	[k] [g] [ŋ]	[x] [ç]
Uvular:		[q] [G]
Pharyngeal:		[ħ] [ʕ]
Glottal	[ʔ]	

Table 1. Consonants in English

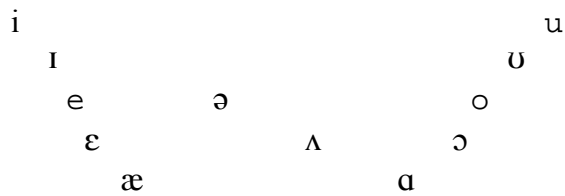
	bilabial	labiodent.	interdent	alveolar	alv-palatal	palatal	velar
Stops	p b			t d			k g
Affric.					tʃ dʒ		
Fricativ.		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ		
Nasal	m			n			ŋ
Liquid				l / r			
Glide	(w)					y	(w)

Classification of vowels

Vowels are classified along four dimensions:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Height of the tongue | high – mid - low |
| 2. Advancement of the tongue | front – central – back |
| 3. Lip rounding | rounded - unrounded |
| 4. Tenseness | tense - lax |

Chart of English vowels



English diphthongs

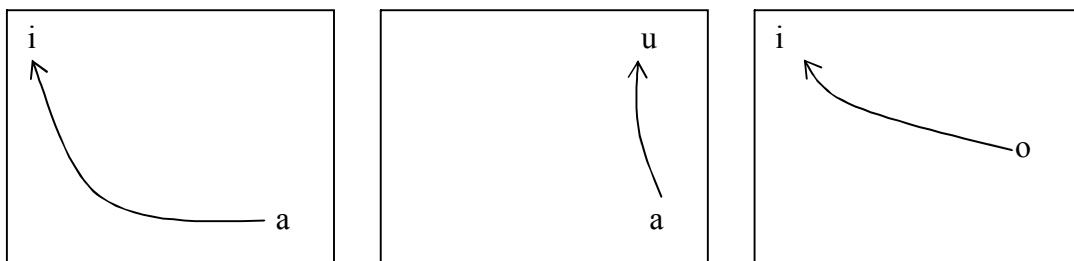
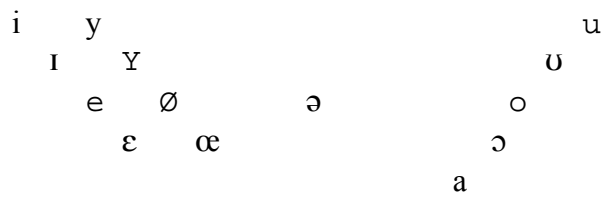


Chart of German vowels



Phonemes and allophones

Aspirated stops and other variants of [t] in English:

[t ^h op]	‘top’	aspirated
[stop]	‘stop’	plain

/p t k/ → [p^h t^h k^h] / # __, __ V
 [p, t, k] elsewhere

Contrastive – complementary distribution

<i>English</i>		<i>Korean</i>	
[læk]	‘lack’	[param]	‘wind’
[ræk]	‘rack’	[irím]	‘name’
[lif]	‘leaf’	[pal]	‘foot’
[rif]	‘reef’	[mal]	‘horse’

/l/ → [r] / V__V
 [l] elsewhere

/r/ → [l] / __#
 [r] / elsewhere

Morphophonemic processes

English plural

[kæts]	‘cats’
[dɔgz]	‘dogs’
[bʊʃəz]	‘bushes’
[kɑz]	‘cars’
[laɪts]	‘lights’
[bæŋks]	‘banks’
[kɪsəz]	‘kisses’
[dʒɪrɑfɪs]	‘giraffes’
[ɡɑrɑʒəz]	‘garages’
[mætʃəz]	‘matches’
[deθs]	‘deaths’

Three allomorphs: [s] after voiceless speech sound
[z] after voiced speech sounds
[əz] after sibilants

Place harmony in the negative prefix:

[ɪmˈpɒsɪbəl]	‘impossible’
[ɪnsensɪtɪv]	‘insensitive’
[ɪŋkɒnsɪstənt]	‘inconsistent’

Three allomorphs: [m] before labials
[n] before alveolars
[ŋ] before velars

Phonological change

1. conditioned change — unconditioned change

(i) Examples of unconditioned change

Every instance of Middle English [i] changed to [ai] regardless of the environment.

[fif]	>	[faif]	‘five’
[wif]	>	[waif]	‘wife’

(ii) Examples of conditioned change

Many English dialects have undergone a change in which a vowel is phonetically lengthened before voiced stops.

[bed]	>	[be:d]
-------	---	--------

2. phonemic change — allophonic change

(i) Examples of allophonic change

All of the changes we have seen thus far were examples of non-phonemic change.

(ii) Examples of phonemic change

Table 1. Vowel merger in Germanic

	PIE	Gothic	OHG	PDE
*o	*okto-	ahtau	ahto	‘eight’
*ǝ	*pǝter-	fadar	fater	‘father’
*a	*agro-	akrs	ackar	‘acre’

[k] > [tʃ]

Table 2. The development of [tʃ] in English

	cat	chaff	chin
Stage 1	katt	keaff	kinn
Stage 2	katt	tʃeaf	tʃinn
Stage 3	katt	tʃaff	tʃinn

Types of assimilation

- Palatalization

English

cheese
child
chin
church

German

Käse
Kind
Kinn
cyrice (Old English)

- Voicing

Latin

strata
lacu

>
>

Italian

strada
lago

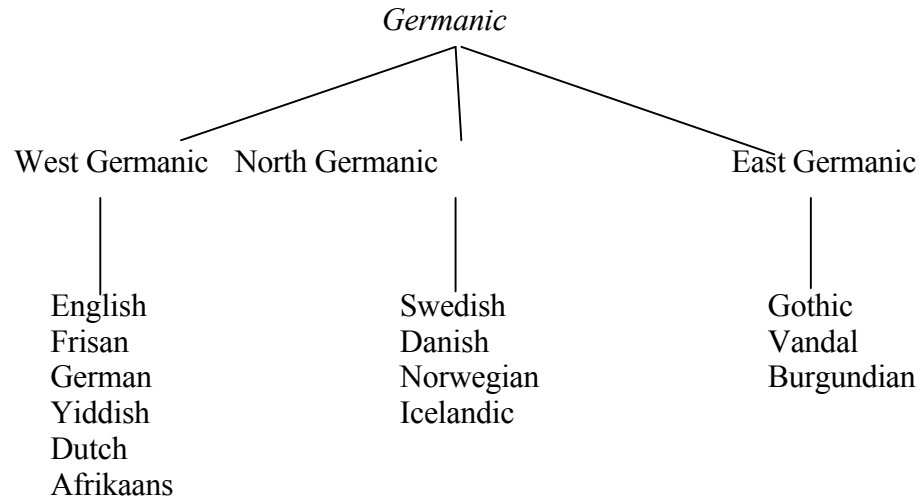
- Fusion

nature
education
tissue

[ty] > [tʃ]
[dy] > [dʒ]
[sy] > [ʃ]

2. The Indo-European language family

Germanic



Comparative evidence

<i>English</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>Swedish</i>
sun	Sonne	sol
house	Haus	hus
cat	Katze	kat
apple	Apfel	äpple
father	Vater	fader
hand	Hand	hand
go	gehen	gar
see	sehen	sar
hear	hören	höra
run	rennen	rännar
dream	träumen	drömar

English loan words in German

<i>English</i>	<i>German</i>
computer	Computer
email	Email
internet	Internet
jeans	Jeans
event	Event
laptop	Laptop
cool	cool
mountain bike	Mountain Bike
absolutely	absolute

Loan words in English

take	Old Norse
give	Old Norse
they	Old Norse
paper	French
story	French
force	French
wall	Latin
street	Latin
school	Latin
kindergarten	German

Sound correspondences: English—German (Second German Sound Shift)

time	Zeit
tongue	Zunge
ten	zehn
tame	zahn
tent	Zelt
to	zu
two	zwei
twins	Zwillinge
that	das
there	da
through	durch
thirsty	durstig
think	denken

pan	Pfanne
path	Pfad
pole	Pfahl
pepper	Pfeffer
pipe	Pfeife
plant	Pflanze
hate	hassen
eat	essen
let	lassen
grip	greifen
deep	tief
sleep	schafen

Historical reconstructions

Reconstructed words of Indo-European

*pe:s-	‘foot’
*ed-	‘eat’
*ghebh-	‘give’
*aug-	‘increase’
*wed-	‘water’

Sound correspondences in Spanish and Sardinian

<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Sardinian</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
[hilo]	[filu]	thread
[viða]	[bital]	life
[vino]	[bino]	wine
[riva]	[riba]	bank
[rio]	[riu]	river
[riso]	[rizu]	laugh
[muða]	[muta]	change

Romance

<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>
crime	crime
prison	prison
letter	lettre
justice	justice
contract	contrat
music	musique
demand	demander
pronounce	prononcer
propose	proposer
responsible	responsable

<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>
one	un, une
two	deux
three	trois
four	quatre
five	cinq
six	six
seven	sept
eight	huit
nine	neuf
ten	diz

The Romans language family

French	Catalan
Italian	Galician
Spain	Sardinian
Portuguese	Provençal
Romanian	Rhaeto-Romance

Table 1. Systematic sound correspondences in the Romance languages

	Italian	Sardinian	Romansh	French	Spanish
<i>Hundred</i>	ʧɛnto	kentu	tsjent	sa	θjen
<i>Sky</i>	ʧɛlo	kɛlu	tsil	sjɛl	θjelo
<i>Stag</i>	ʧɛrvo	kɛrbu	tserf	sɛR	θjerbo
<i>Wax</i>	ʧɛra	kɛra	tsaira	sɪR	θera

The Indo-European language family

Germanic	Greek
Romance	Iranian
Slavic	Indian
Baltic	Albanian
Celtic	Armenian

Balto-Slavic

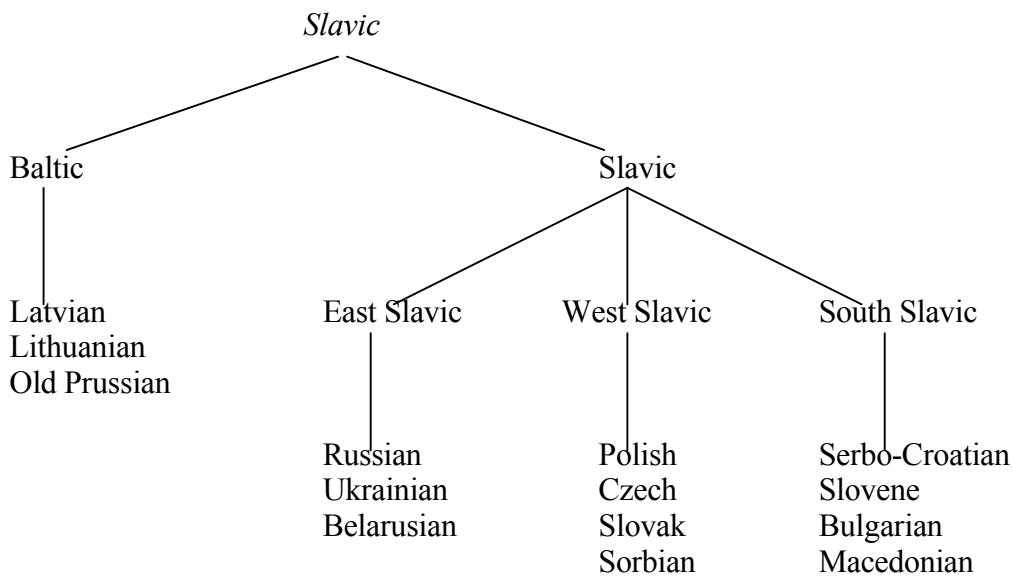
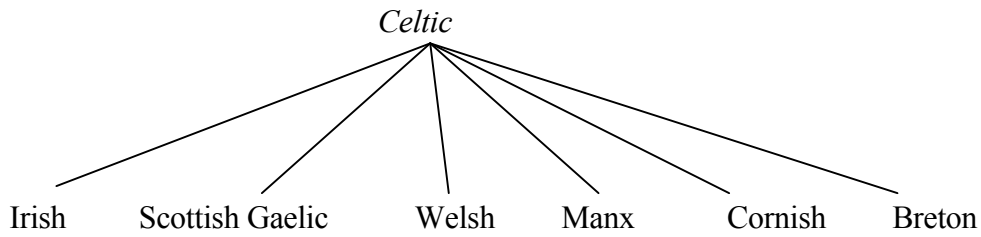


Table 2. Cases in Proto-IE and various IE-languages

	IE	Sanskrit	German	English	Lithuanian
NOM	*wlk ^w os	vrkas	der	he	vilkas
VOC	*wlk ^w e	vrka	den		vilke
ACC	*wlk ^w om	vrkam	des	him	vilka
GEN	*wlk ^w osyo	vrkasya		his	
ABL	*wlk ^w od	vrkad	dem		vilko
DAT	*wlk ^w oi	vrkaya			vilkui
LOC	*wlk ^w ei	vrke			vilke
INST	*wlk ^w o	vrka			vilku

Celtic



Speakers today: Welsh (Wales): 250.000
 Irish (Ireland): 500.000
 Gaelic (Scotland): 75.000
 Manx (Ilse of man): extinct
 Cornish (Cornwell): extinct
 Breton (Brittany): 500.000

Table 3. Numerals in Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages

English	Gothic	Latin	Greek	Old Ch. Slavic	Sanskrit	Chinese	Japanese
one	ains	unus	heis	jedinu	ekas	i	hitotsu
two	twai	duo	duo	duva	dva	erh	futatsu
three	þrija	tres	treis	trije	trayas	san	mittsu
four	fidwor	quattuor	tettares	cetyre	catvaras	ssu	yottsu
five	fimf	quinque	pentē	peti	panca	wu	itsutsu
six	saihs	sex	heks	secti	sat	liu	muttsu
seven	sibun	septem	hepta	sedmi	sapta	ch'i	nanatsu
eight	ahtau	octo	okto	osmi	asta	pa	yattsu
nine	niun	novembe	ennea	deveti	nava	chiu	kokonotsu
ten	taihun	decem	deka	deseti	dasa	shih	to

Table 4. Systematic sound correspondences in the Indo-European

English	Latin	Greek	Irish
fish	piscis	ikhthys	iasg
father	pater	pater	athair
foot	ped-	pod-	troigh
for	pro	para	do
six	sex	hexa	se
seven	septem	hepta	seacht
sweet	suavis	hedys	millis
salt	sal	hal	salann
new	novus	neos	nua
night	noct-	nykt-	(in)nocht
nine	novem	(en)nea	naoi

Table 5. Sound correspondences across unrelated languages

	Arabic	Urdu	Turkish	Swahili	Malay
<i>news</i>	xabar	xabar	haber	habari	khabar
<i>time</i>	waqt	vaqt	vakit	wkati	waktu
<i>book</i>	kitab	kitab	kitab	kitab	kitab
<i>service</i>	xidmat	xidmatgari	hizmet	huduma	khidmat
<i>beggar</i>	faqir	faqir	fakir	fakiri	fakir

The discovery of Indo-European: Sir William Jones (1786)

Table 6. Sound correspondences between Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek

Sanskrit	Latin	Greek
asmi	sum	eini
asi	es	ei
asti	est	esti
smas	sumus	esmen
stha	estis	este
santi	sunt	eisi

The First Germanic Sound Shift

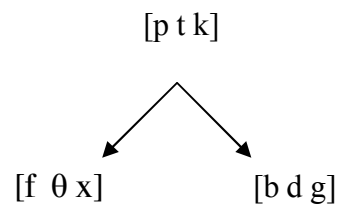
Table 7. The first Germanic sound shift (Grimm's law)

	Latin	Old English	Gothic
/p/ → /f/	pedum piscis	fot fisc	fotus fiskis
/t/ → /θ/	tres tu	three [θri] thou [ðaʊ]	thrir thuŕ
/k/ → /x/h/	cordem centum	heart hundred	hairto hund
/b/ → /p/	turba 'crowd'	thorp 'village'	
/d/ → /t/	edo decem	eat ten	itan taihun
/g/ → /k/	ager genus	acre kin	akrs kuni
	IE	Old English	Gothic
/bh/ → /b/	*bhero	beran	baíra
/dh/ → /d/	*dhura	duru	daúr
/gh/ → /g/	*ghostis	gasts	giest

Grimm's Law:

*p t k → f θ x/h
 *b d g → p t k
 *bh dh gh → b d g

Exceptions to Grimm's law:



<i>Sanskrit</i>	<i>Old English</i>
vártate	weorþan
varárta	wearþ
vavrtimá	wurdon
vavrtá:ná	worden

Verner's law:

[p t k] → [f θ x] / [stressed syllable] __
 → [b d g] / [unstressed syllable] __

Languages world wide

World wide there are about 6000 languages, many of them are only spoken by a few speakers and threatened by extinction. If nothing happens about 90% of these languages will extinguish within the next 50 to 100 years.

Important language families:

- Uralic (Finnish, Hungarian, Estonian, Tartar)
- Caucasian (Northwest Caucasian, Kartvelian, Dagastan)
- Altaic (Turkic, Tungusic, Mongolian)
- Sino-Tibetan (Chinese)
- Daic (Tai), Austroasiatic (Vietnamese), Mia-Yao (Mien)
- Austronesian
- New Guinea
- Australia
- Afro-Asiatic (Semitic, Chadic, Cushitic, Berber)
- Nilo-Saharan (Maasai)
- Niger-Congo (Bantu languages)
- Khoisan (!Xung)
- Native American languages (Amerind)

Number of speakers:

Chinese	1200 million
English	450 million
Spanish	300 million
Hindi-Urdu	150 million
Portuguese	150 million
Indonesian	150 million
Russian	150 million
Bengali	150 million
Arabic	150 million
Japanese	110 million

3. From Indo-European to Old English

1. Indo-European had a very complex verbal system including inflectional endings for various tense, mood, and aspect forms. This system was simplified in Germanic.

Indo-European

present
past
future
perfect
aorist
past perfect

Germanic

present
past

2. In Indo-European, verbs were inflected by changing the stem vowel (Ablaut). The modern Germanic languages developed another verb conjugation.

Strong conjugation

sing
sang

Weak conjugation

walk
walked

3. Adjective declension

German

- (1) ein alter Mann
- (2) alte Männer

[weak]
[strong]

Old English

- (1) a geongan ceorlas
- (2) geonge *ceorlas*

[weak] 'the young fellows'
[strong] 'young fellows.'

4. Grimm's law and Verner's law.

4. Old English

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (878) (Trask 2-3)

Her ... Ælfred cyning ... gefeaht wið ealne here, and hine geflymde, and him æfter rad oð þet geweorc, and þær sæt XIII niht, and þa sealde se here him gislas and myccele aðas, þet hi of his rice woldon, and him eac geheton þet heora cyng fulwihte onfon wolde, and hi þæt gelaston...

Her ... Ælfred cyning ... gefeaht wið ealne here, and hine
Here Alfred king fought against whole army and it.ACC

geflymde, and him æfter rad oð þet geweorc, and þær sæt
put to flight and it.DAT after rode to the fortress and there camped

XIII niht, and þa sealde se here him gislas and myccele
14 nights and then gave the army him hostages and great

aðas, þet hi of his rice woldon, and him eac geheton
oaths that they from his kingdom would [go] and him also promised

þet heora cyng fulwihte onfon wolde, and hi þæt gelaston
That their king baptism receive would and they that did

Here King Alfred fought against the whole army, and put it to flight, and rode after it to the fortress, and there he camped for fourteen nights. And then the army gave him hostages and great oaths that they would depart from his kingdom, and they also promised that their king would receive baptism. And they did these things.

Social history

55 BCE	Roman invasion of Britain under Julius Caesar
43 CE	Roman invasion and occupation under Emperor Claudius. Beginning of Roman rule of Britain
436	Roman withdrawal from Britain complete
449	Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain begins
450-480	Earliest Old English inscriptions date from this period
597	St. Augustine arrives in Britain. Beginning of Christian conversion of the Anglo-Saxons
731	The Venerable Bede publishes <i>The Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i> in Latin
792	Viking raids and settlements begin
865	The Danes occupy Northumbria
871	Alfred becomes king of Wessex. He has Latin works translated into English and begins practice of English prose. <i>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> is begun
911	Charles II of France grants Normandy to the Viking chief Hrolf the Ganger. The beginning of Norman French
1000	The oldest surviving manuscript of <i>Beowulf</i> dates from this period
1066	The Norman conquest

Structure

Old English spelling

þ	[ð or θ]	thorn
ð	[ð or θ]	eth
ȝ	[ʒ or g]	yogh
ƿ	[s or z]	
æ	[æ]	ash
c	[k]	
sc	[sk, later ʃ]	

Phonology

Table 1. Vowels

Short vowels	Long vowels
i	ī
y	ȳ
u	ū
e	ē
o	ō
æ	ǣ
a	ā

Exercise: Consider the distribution of [f] and [v], [h], [x], and [ç], and [ŋ] and [ŋ]. Are they different phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme?

[brɪŋɡən]	to bring	[lʊvʊ]	love
[drɪŋkən]	to drink	[mɑnəs]	mans
[fæst]	fast	[mo : na]	moon
[fi : fta]	fifth	[ni : xsta]	next
[fɔlk]	folk	[no : n]	noon
[fɒnt]	font	[ɔffrian]	to offer
[ha : t]	hot	[vnas]	ovens
[hlo : θ]	troop	[ru : x]	rough
[hlyxən]	to laugh	[lɒŋɡən]	to lengthen
[θʊŋɡən]	full grown	[hrævn]	raven
[niçt]	night		

Table 2. Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Inter-dental	Alveolar	Alveolar-palatal	Velar
Stop	p b			t d		k g
Affricate					tʃ dʒ	
Fricative		f	θ	s	ʃ	h
Nasal	m			n		
Lateral				l		
Retroflex				r		
Glide	w				j	

/s/ → [s], # __, __ #, __ [voiceless]
 [z], __ [voiced]

/ð/ → [θ], # __, __ #, __ [voiceless]
 [ð], __ [voiced]

/k/ → [k], __ [a, o, u, ü]
 [tʃ], __ [e, i]

/g/ → [g], __ [a, o, u, ü]
 [j], __ [e, i]
 [ɣ], back vowels __ (back vowels)

Table 3. i-Mutation (Umlaut)

Vowel	Non-mutated	Mutated
u:	mu:s 'mouse'	my:s 'mice'
a	mann 'man'	menn 'men'
æ	hwæt 'bold'	hwettan 'to incite'
o:	do:m 'judgement'	de:man 'to judge'
ea	eald 'old'	yldra 'older'

- (1)
- | | |
|-------|-------|
| mouse | mice |
| goose | geese |
| tooth | teeth |
| foot | feet |
| man | men |
- (2)
- | | |
|----------|---------|
| blood | bleed |
| doom | deem |
| full | fill |
| long | length |
| tale | tell |
| straight | stretch |
| lie | lay |
| fall | fell |
| older | eldest |

Table 4. Umlaut and its development

	SG Mouse	PL Mice	SG Foot	PL Feet
Original	/mu:s/ [mu:s]	/mu:s-i/ [mu:s-i]	/fo:t/ [fo:t]	/fo:t-i/ [fo:t-i]
Ablaut		/mu:s-i/ [my:s-i]		/fo:t-i/ [fø:t-i]
Loss of ending		/my:s/ [my:s]		/fø:t/ [fø:t]
Unrounding		/mi:s/ [mi:s]		/fe:t/ [fe:t]
GEV		/mais/ [mais]		/fi:t/ [fi:t]

Morphology

Nouns and pronouns

Table 1. Strong declension

Strong declension	SG	PL
NOM	stan	stan-as
GEN	stan-es	stan-a
DAT	stan-e	stan-um
ACC	stan	stan-as

Table 2. Weak declension

Weak declension	SG	PL
NOM	nam-a	nam-an
GEN	nam-an	nam-ena
DAT	nam-an	nam-um
ACC	nam-an	nam-an

Table 3. Declension of demonstratives

<i>that/the</i>	Masc	Neut	Fem	Plural
NOM	se	ɸæt	seo	ɸa
GEN	ɸæs	ɸæs	ɸære	ɸara
DAT	ɸæm	ɸæ:m	ɸæ:re	ɸæm
ACC	ɸone	ɸæt	ɸa	ɸa
INST	ɸy:	ɸy:		

Table 4. Declension of personal pronouns

	I	you	he	she	it
NOM	ic	ɸŭ	hě	hěo	hit
GEN	mĭn	ɸĭn	his	hiere	his
DAT	mě	ɸě, ɸec	him	hiere	him
ACC	mě, mec	ɸě	hine	hĭe	hit

ic I
 wic speaker and addressee
 wě speaker and a group of addressees

thŭ you
 git you and I
 gě you PL (excluding the speaker)

Possessive pronouns

- ēowre 1. 'your (book)'
 2. 'yours'

Reflexive pronouns

- (1) Warnode hē him ...
 guarded he himself ...
 'He guarded himself.' (Bede: Ecclesiastical History)

Adjective declension

- (1) ein alter Mann [weak]
(2) alte Männer [strong]
- (1) a geongan ceorlas [weak] 'the young fellows'
(2) geonge *ceorlas* [strong] 'young fellows.'

Verbs

Strong

sing sang
write wrote
tell told

Weak

walk walked
kiss kissed
ask asked

Old English

climb clomb
creep crope
laugh low
yield yold
step stope

Modern English

climb climbed
creep crept
laugh laughed
yield yielded
step stepped

Four-part analogy

change
wash

changeable
X = *wash+able*

walk
climb

walked
X = *climbed*

Old English

dive dived
catch catched

Modern English

dive dove
catch caught

Table 5. Verb conjugation

	Present	Past
Indicative		
1. Sg	sing-e	sang
2. Sg	sing-est	sung-e
3. Sg	sing-eð	sang
Pl.	sing-að	sung-on
Subjunctive		
Sg.	sing-e	sung-e
Pl.	sing-en	sung-en

- (1) If he were at home, Sally would know.
 (2) I recommend that the paragraph be rewritten.

- (3) write wrote written
 sing sang sung

- (4) gestolen ‘stolen’
 gegiefen ‘given’

Conjunctions

oththe ... oththe	‘either ... or’
ge ... ge	‘both ... and’
tha; ... tha:	‘when ... then’
na: ... na:	‘neither ... nor’
thonne ... thonne	‘when ... then’
nu: ... nu:	‘now that’
swa: ... swa:	‘just as ... so’
gif ... thonne	‘if ... then’
thæt ... thæt	‘that’ (complement clause)

- (1) **þæt** gefremede Diulius hiora consul, **þæt** eæt
 that arranged Diulius their consul COMP that
 angin wearę tidlice ęurthogen
 beginning was in.time achieved
 ‘Their consul Diulius arranged (it) that it was started on time.’

Adverbs

- (1) friendly
homely
kindly

Word order

- (1) God beheaded Abraham-e ... S-V-O.DAT
God commanded Abraham ...
'God commanded Abraham'
- (2) þa eode se biscop into þa oþære cyrcan ADV-V-S
then went the bishop into that other church
'Then the bishop went into the other church.'
- (3) Wie hie ondredon. S-O-V
We them feared
'We feared them'.
- (4) þa ic þa þis eall gemunde, þa gemunde ic eac hu ...
when I then this all remembered then remembered I also how
'When I remembered all this, then I also remembered how ...
- (5) Gehyrst þu, sælida?
Hear you sailor
'Do you hear, sailor? '

Foreign influences

The Celtic influence

London
Thames
Kent

Duncombe *cumb* ‘deep valley’
Holcombe
Winchcombe

Torr *torr* ‘high rock’, ‘peak’
Torcross
Torhill

Latin influence

Early Borrowings before the Anglo-Saxons conquest

wall	win
street	must
pit	flasce (latter replaced by ‘bottle’)
mile	chalk
pepper	copper
butter	mule
onion	dragon
plum	church
pea	bishop

Borrowings in early OE (religious words)

angel	anthem
disciple	martyr
noon	nun
offer	pope
priest	psalm
rule	relic
temple	shrine

God
heaven
hell
Easter [word for pagan festival]

Latin	>	Old English
‘gospel’		‘god-spell’ (lit. good news)

Borrowings in early OE (clothing, household, food, others)

cap	pear
sock	radish
silk	oyster
purple	lobster
chest	to cook
school	plant
place	box
anchor	lily
sponge	pine

Borrowings in late OE

paper	title
idol	cancer
accent	history
cell	term(inus)
prime	fig
sabbath	tiger

Scandinavian influence

Borrowed nouns

law	leg
neck	bag
cake	egg
fellow	dirt
fog	knife
window	sky
skin skirt	
sister [sweaster]	anger

Borrowed verbs

take [niman]	die
get	cast
give	cut [sniDan]
raise	smile
call	drag
want	lift

Borrowed adjectives

flat	loose
low	odd
ugly	wrong
tight	weak
awkward	rotten

Borrowed grammatical morphemes

they	though
their	till
them	same
(she)	both
are [OE syndon]	

Borrowed place names

Grimsby	-by 'farm'
Derby	
Thoresby	
Althorpe	-thorpe 'village'
Bishopsthorpe	
Linthorpe	

Old English words

shirt
shoe
shelf
shine

Later borrowings

skirt
skip
scare
scarf

4. Middle English

Social history

- 1066 The Norman conquest
1150 The oldest surviving manuscripts in Middle English date from this period
1171 Henry II conquers Ireland
1204 King John loses the province of Normandy to France
1348 English replaces Latin as the medium of instruction in schools, other than Oxford and Cambridge which retain Latin
1349-50 The Black Death kills one third of the British population
1362 The Statute of Pleading replaces French with English as the language of law. Records continue to be kept in Latin. English is used in Parliament for the first time
1384 Wyclif publishes his English translation of the Bible
1388 Chaucer begins *The Canterbury Tales*
1400 The Great Vowel Shift begins
1476 William Caxton establishes the first English printing press
1485 Caxton publishes Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*
1492 Columbus discovers the New World

Foreign influences

French loan words

Nouns

action	adventure	ocean
age	air	pair
bucket	calendar	person
carpenter	city	powder
coast	comfort	river
cost	country	sign
courage	coward	opinion
damage	debt	people
ease	envy	poverty
error	face	reason
fame	fault	season
flower	force	sound
honor	hour	sum
manner	task	honor
noise	number	use

Adjectives

able	active	actual
brief	calm	certain
clear	common	contrary
courageous	cruel	curious
eager	easy	faint
fierce	final	firm
foreign	gentle	hasty
honest	horrible	innocent
large	natural	nice
original	perfect	poor
precious	pure	real
rude	safe	scarce
second	simple	single
special	stable	usual

Verbs

advise	aim	allow
approach	arrange	arrive
betray	change	chase
serve	comfort	complain
conceal	consider	continue
count	cover	cry
deceive	declare	defeat
delay	desire	destroy
enjoy	enter	excuse
force	form	increase
inform	join	suppose
marry	obey	observe
pay	wait	please
praise	prefer	propose
prove	push	receive
refuse	relieve	remember
waste	satisfy	save

Government and administration

government	crown	state
empire	realm	authority
court	parliament	assembly
traitor	treason	exile
liberty	office	mayor
prince	baron	duke
sir	madam	mistress

Church and religion

religion	sermon	confess
prayer	lesson	passion
chant	sacrifice	chapter
abbey	cloister	virgin
saint	miracle	mystery
faith	mercy	pity
virtue	preach	pray

Law

justice	equity	judgment
crime	judge	attorney
bill	petition	complaint
evidence	proof	bail
ransom	verdict	sentence
award	fine	punishment
prison	accuse	indict
blame	arrest	seize
pledge	condemn	convict
acquit	fraud	perjury
property	estate	heir
entail	just	innocent

Army and navy

army	navy	pace
enemy	battle	combat
siege	defense	ambush
retreat	soldier	guard
spy	captain	besiege

Fashion

dress	habit	fashion
robe	coat	collar
veil	mitten	adorn
embellish	blue	brown
fur	jewel	ivory

Meals and food

dinner	supper	feast
taste	appetite	salmon
beef	veal	pork
sausage	bacon	gravy
cream	sugar	salad
fruits	fig	orange
lemon	cherry	peach
spice	mustard	vinegar

Furniture, social life

couch	chair	screen
lamp	blanket	wardrobe
recreation	leisure	dance
fool	music	chess
stable	retrieve	falcon
forest	park	tournament

Art, learning, medicine

art	painting	beauty
color	figure	image
tone	cathedral	ceiling
tower	porch	bay
column	vase	poet
rime	story	paper
pen	study	logic
geometry	grammar	noun
clause	copy	medicine
stomach	ointment	poison

Effects of the French loan words on the English vocabulary

(1)	<i>French borrowing</i>	<i>Lost English word</i>
	poor	earn
	people	leod
	guilty	scyldig
	army	here
	warrior	cempa
	air	lyft
	confess	andettan
	praise	hearian
(2)	<i>French borrowing</i>	<i>Lost English word</i>
	judgment	doom
	judge	deem
	cordial	hearty
	power	might
	demand	ask
	desire	wish
	beef	ox
	pork	swine
	veal	calf
	mutton	cheep

- (3) forget, forbear, forbid
withdraw, withhold
(note that *with* has its old meaning 'against' in this words)

childhood, likelihood, manhood
friendship, kinship, hardship
freedom, wisdom, kingdom

inter-, counter-, re-, trans-, anti-, dis-,
-able, -ible, -ent, -al, -ous, -ive

Loan words from other languages

Latin:

adjacent	conspiracy	contempt
custody	distract	frustrate
genius	gesture	history
homicide	include	incredible
individual	infancy	inferior
infinite	innate	intellect
interrupt	legal	magnify
minor	moderate	private
necessary	nervous	picture
polite	popular	prevent
project	promote	prosody
reject	spacious	subdivide
submit	subscribe	substitute
summary	suppress	subordinate

Flemish, Dutch, and Low German:

deck	dock	freight
rover	booze	gin
easel	etching	landscape

Structure

Spelling

1. <th> gradually replaced <þ> <ð>
2. <k> for [k]

OE	ME
cyssan	kiss
cneow	knee
cene	keen
3. <ou> / <ow>

OE	ME
hu	how
thu	thou
hus	house
brun	brown
4. <sh> replaced <sc>:

OE	ME
scamu	shame
scearp	sharp
5. <ch> replaced <c> when <c> represented an affricate:

OE	ME
ceap	cheap
cinn	chinn
6. <gh> replaced <h> when <h> represented a velar fricative:

OE	ME
þoht	thought
riht	right
7. <wh> replaced <hw> for a voiceless [w]:

OE	ME
hwæt	what
hwil	while
8. Doubling of vowels was introduced as a sign of vowel length:

OE	ME
bot	boot
god	good

Phonology

Table 1. ME consonants

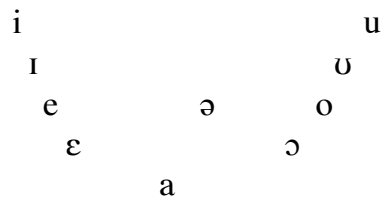
	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Inter-dental	Alveolar	Alveolar-palatal	Velar
Stop	p b			t d		k g
Affricate					tʃ dʒ	
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	h
Nasal	m			n		
Lateral				l		
Retroflex				r		
Glide	w				y	

- (1) vine (Fr.) fine (Fr.)
 view (Fr.) few (Engl.)
 vile (Fr.) file (Engl.)

- (2) [hu:zian] > [hu:zia] > [hu:z] ‘to house’ V
 [hu:s] [hu:s] ‘house’ N

- (3) knife knives
 bath bathe
 life live
 breath breathe

ME vowels



- [iu] trewe ‘true’
- [ɛu] fewe ‘few’
- [au] clawe ‘claw’
- [ɔu] bowe ‘bow’
- [æi] dai ‘day’
- [ɔi] point ‘point’
- [ɔi] chois ‘choice’

Grammar

Table 1. Nominal declension in the North

NORTH	Old English		Middle English	
	SG	PL	SG	PL
NOM	stan	stan-as	stan	stan-es
GEN	stan-es	stan-a	stan-es	stan-es
DAT	stan-e	stan-um	stan	stan-es
ACC	stan	stan-as	stan	stan-es

Table 2. Nominal declension in the South

South	Old English		Middle English	
	SG	PL	SG	PL
NOM	eag-a	eag-an	eye	eye-n
GEN	eag-an	stan-ena	eye-s	eye-n
DAT	eag-an	stan-um	eye	eye-n
ACC	eag-an	stan-an	eye	eye-n

EME	PDE
eyen	‘eyes’
shoon	‘shoes’
hosen	‘hose’
housen	‘houses’
peasen	‘peas’
oxen	
children	
brethren	

Table 3. Third person pronouns

	3SG M	3SG F	3 SG N	3 PL
Subject	he	heo, sche	hit, it	he, hi, thei
Object	him	hire, her	hit, it, him	hem, them
Possessive	his	hir(e), her(e)	his	here, thair

Table 4. Second person pronouns

	1. person		2. person	
	SG	PL	SG	PL
Subject	ich, I	we	þu, thou	3e, ye
Object	me	us	þe, thee	3ou, eu, you
Possessive	mine, mi	ure, our	þin(e), i	3ur(e), your

Table 5. Verb conjugation

	Old English		Middle English	
	Present	Past	Present	Past
Indicative				
1. Sg	sing-e	sang	sing	sang
2. Sg	sing-est	sung-e	sing	sang
3. Sg	sing-eþ	sang	sing-þ	sang
Pl.	sing-aþ	sung-on	sing	sang
Subjunctive				
Sg.	sing-e	sung-e	sing	sang
Pl.	sing-en	sung-en	sing	sang

Analytical verb forms

Future

- (1) and swiche **wolle** have the kyngdom of helle, and not of hevene.
 ‘and such will have the kingdom of hell, and not of heaven’

Perfect

- (1) Ic hæbbe þone fisc gefangene
 I have the.ACC fish caught.ACC
 ‘I have the fish caught’ (=I have the fish in a state of being caught)
- (2) Ic hæfde hine gebundenne
 I had him.ACC bound.ACC
 ‘I had him bound’ (=I had him in a state of being bound)
- (3) Ic hæfde hit gebunden
 I had it bound.Ø
 ‘I had it bound’ (= I had it in my possession)
- (4) thin geleafa hæfth the gehæled
 your faith has you healed
 ‘Your faith has healed you.’
- (5) Ac hie hæfdon þa ... hiora mete genotudne
 but they had then ... their food used-up
 ‘But they had then used up their food.’
- (6) þou hauest don oure kunne wo
 ‘You have done our family woe.’

- (7) I am com to myne ende.
 ‘I have come to my end.’

Passive

- (1) [men] that wol nat be governed by hir wyves.
 ‘[men] that will not be governed by their wives.’

Progressive

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| (1) | For now is gode Gawayn goande ryght here.
For now is good Gawain going right here. | Participle |
| (2) | I am yn beldyng of a pore hous.
‘I am in (the process of) building a poor house.’ | Gerund |

Modal verbs

- (1) þat y mowe riche be
 ‘that I may rich be’

Word order changes

- (1) In the contre of Ethyop they slen here childeryn byforn here goddys.
 ‘In the country of Ethiopia they slay their children in front of their gods.’
 [after adverbial]
- (2) þe taverne ys þe scole of þe dyevle huere his deciples studieþ
 ‘The tavern is the school of the devil where his disciples study.’ [dependent clause]
- (3) Nowe haue ye herde þe vertues & þe significacouns.
 Now have you heard the virtues and the meanings.
- (5) þat ðu þis weork naht ne forlate.
 ‘that you this work not (not) neglect.’
- (6) If a man will þe harme.
 ‘If a man wants (to) you harm.’

- (7) Woot ye not where ther stant a litel toun ...
 know you not where there stand a little town
 ‘Don’t you know where the little town is?’
- (8) Why make ye youreself for to be lyk a fool?
 Why make you yourself for to be like a fool
 ‘Why do you make a fool of yourself?’

Middle English dialects

South	<i>-eth</i>	<i>loveth</i>
East and West Midland	<i>-en</i>	<i>loven</i>
North	<i>-es</i>	<i>loves</i>
South	<i>-inde</i>	<i>lovinde</i>
East and West Midland	<i>-ende</i>	<i>lovende</i>
North	<i>-ande</i>	<i>lovande</i>
South	<i>hi, here, hem</i>	
North	<i>they</i>	

5. Early Modern English

Social history

1476	William Caxton imported the first printing press to England
1492	Columbus discovers the New World
1525	William Tyndale translates the New Testament
1549	First version of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i>
1564	Shakespeare born
1603	Union of the English and Scottish crowns under James the I (VI of Scotland)
1604	Robert Cawdrey publishes the first English dictionary, <i>Table Alphabeticall</i>
1607	Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the New World, established
1611	The Authorized, or King James Version, of the Bible is published
1616	Death of Shakespeare
1623	Shakespeare's First Folio is published
1666	The Great Fire of London. End of The Great Plague
1702	Publication of the first daily, English-language newspaper, <i>The Daily Courant</i> , in London
1755	Samuel Johnson publishes his dictionary

The debate over English as a national language

But why not all in English, a tung of it self both depe in conceit, and frank in deliverie? I do not think that anie language, be it whatsoever, is better able to utter all arguments, either with more pith, or greater planesse, then our English tung is, if the English utterer be as skillful in the matter, which he is to utter, as the foren utterer is. [Mulcaster]

I do write in my naturall English tounge, bycause though I make the learned my judges, which understand Latin, yet I meane good to the unlearne, which understand English, and he that understands Latin very well, can understand English farre better, if he will confesse the trueth, though he thinks he have the habite and can Latin it exceedingly well.

[Robert Mulcaster]

Inkhorn terms

Some seeke so far for outlandish English, that they forget altogether their mothers tongue. And I dare sweare this, if some of their mothers were alieue, thei were not able to tell what they say: ... The vnlearned or foolish phantasticall, that smelles but of learning ... wil so Latin their

tongues, that the simple can not but wonder at their talke, and thinke surely they speake by some reuelation. I know them that thinke *Rhetorique* to stande whole vpon darke wordes, and hee that can catche an ynke horne terme by the taile, him they coumpt to be a fine Englishman, and a good Rhetorician.

[Thomas Wilson]

<i>Latin</i>	<i>English word coinage</i>	
lunatic	mooned	[Sir John Cheke]
crucified	crossed	[Sir John Cheke]
parable	biword	[Sir John Cheke]
muscles	fleshstrings	[Arthur Golding]
triangle	threlike	[Robert Recorde]
conclusion	endsay	[Robert Recorde]
definition	saywhat	[Robert Recorde]
irony	dry mock	[Robert Recorde]

Foreign influences

Latin loan words

Nouns

allusion	occurrence	frequency
vacuum	denunciation	disability
excursion	expectation	emotion

Adjectives

appropriate	agile	conspicuous
dexterous	expensive	external
habitual	jocular	insane

Verbs

adapt	alienate	assassinate
benefit	emancipate	eradicate
erupt	excavate	exert
harass	exist	extinguish

climax	exterior
appendix	delirium

consultare	>	to consult
exoticus	>	exotic
conspicuus	>	conspicuous
externus	>	external
brevitas	>	brevity

Middle English

armor
 chamber
 choir
 prove
 frail
 gender
 jealous
 mould
 spice
 strait
 strange
 treasure

Early Modern English

armature
 camera
 chorus
 probe
 fragile
 genus
 zealous
 module
 species
 strict
 extraneous
 thesaurus

Greek loan words

Greek borrowings through Latin

anachronism
 atmosphere
 autograph
 chaos
 crisis
 emphasis
 enthusiasm
 parenthesis
 pneumonia
 scheme
 skeleton
 system
 tactics

direct borrowings from Greek

anonymous
 catastrophe
 criterion
 lexicon
 polemic
 tantalize
 thermometer

French loan words

bizarre	chocolate
comrade	detail
duel	entrance
essay	explore
mustache	probability
progress	surpass
ticket	volunteer
admire	compute
density	hospitality
identity	ramify

Italian loan words

algebra	design
balcony	violin
volcano	

Spanish and Portuguese loan words

alligator	apricot
barricade	cocoa
embargo	hammock
mango	avocado
hurricane	mosquito
potato	tobacco
chili	maize
tomato	papaya

Loan words from non-European languages

Native American languages

caribou	moccasin
opossum	raccoon
tomahawk	wigwam
moose	skunk

Indian and East Asia languages

bungalow	curry
nirvana	punch
thug	mango

cashmere

jungle

African languages

banana

boorish

gorilla

voodoo

chimpanzee

zebra

Australian languages

kangaroo

boomerang

wombat

Coinages from native sources

New word coinages

blatant

chirrup

delve

belt

glance

endear

enshrine

drizzling

gloomy

wary

Clippings

van

(<vanguard)

rear

(<arrear)

fortnight

(<fourteen-night)

Backformations

difficult

(<difficulty)

unit

(<unity)

Blendings

dumbfound

(<dumb + confound)

apathetic

(< apathy + pathetic)

splutter

(< splash + sputter)

Structure

Phonology

Consonants: Allophonic [ŋ] and [dʒ] became independent phonemes in Early Modern English.

Phonotactic changes:

1. The palatal and velar fricatives, [ç] and [x], functioning as allophones of [h] in Middle English, disappeared. The loss led to a lengthening of the preceding vowel (compensatory lengthening):

[sɪçt] > [sit] ‘sight’

2. [l] was lost after back vowels and velar or labial consonants:

half, palm, folk, talk

3. [t] and to a lesser extent [d] was lost in consonant clusters including [s]:

castle, hasten, wrestle, handsome, landscape

4. [g] and [k] were lost in initial position before [n]:

know, knife, knee, knight, gnaw, gnome

5. [w] was lost before [r]:

wrong, wrinkle, wrist

6. Postvocalic [r] disappeared in British English and in American English in New England. Other American English dialects kept [r] in these positions.

British English	American English	
[ka]	[kar]	‘car’
[biə]	[biər]	‘beer’

7. In some words, ME [d] changed to [D]; in other cases the change occurred the other way around:

OE/ME	PDE
fæder	father
mōder	mother

gadrian	gather
widderen	wither
mord̃er	murder
byrd̃en	burden
fiðdele	fiddle

Old English	Modern English	
[bru : n]	‘brown’	u : > aʊ
[de : man]	‘deem’	e : > i
[do : m]	‘doom’	o : > u
[du : n]	‘down’	u : > aʊ
[æ : l]	‘eel’	æ : > i
[æ : fen]	‘even(ing)’	æ : > i
[la : t̃ə]	‘late’	a : > e
[fi : f]	‘five’	i : > aɪ
[he :]	‘he’	e : > i
[ra : d]	‘rode’	a : > o
[hæ : θ]	‘heath’	æ : > i
[na : m̃ə]	‘name’	a : > e
[hu : s]	‘house’	u : > aɪ
[i : s]	‘ice’	i : > aɪ
[læ : ce]	‘leech’	æ : > i
[mu : θ]	‘mouth’	u : > aʊ
[mi : n]	‘my’	i : > aɪ
[a : c]	‘oak’	a : > o
[ro : st]	‘roost’	o : > u
[mad̃ə]	‘make’	a : > e
[ha : m]	‘home’	a : > ɔ
[ro : t]	‘root’	u : > aʊ
[so : θ]	‘sooth’	o : > u
[sta : n]	‘stone’	a : > ɔ
[te : θ]	‘teeth’	e : > i
[ti : d]	‘time’ / ‘tide’	i : > aɪ
[to : θ]	‘tooth’	o : > u
[hwi : t]	‘white’	i : > aɪ

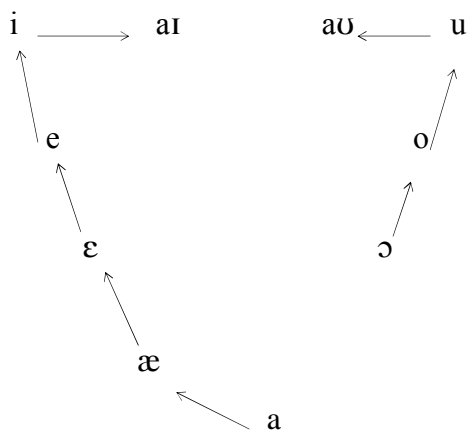
Middle English had a system of seven long vowels: [i: e: æ: a: u: o: ɔ:].
All of them have changed in Early Modern English:

i: > ai
 e: > i
 æ: > i (via e)
 a: > e (via æ)
 u: > aʊ
 o: > u
 ɔ: > o ([hɔ:l] > [hol])

 a: > o (from Old to Middle English)

The Great English Vowel Shift

Middle English	Chaucer	Shakespeare	Modern spelling
i:	[fi:f]	[faɪv]	five
e:	[me:de]	[mi:d]	mid
ɛ:	[kle:ne]	[kle:n]	clean
a:	[na:ma]	[ne:m]	name
u:	[du:n]	[daʊn]	down
o:	[ro:tə]	[ru:t]	root
ɔ:	[gɔ:tə]	[go:t]	goat



The short vowels changed too:

1. All remaining unstressed vowels (i.e. [ə]) were lost in Early Modern English.
2. Middle English [a] became [æ] in Early Modern English (note that OE had the vowel [æ], which disappeared in ME). In British English, [æ] changed back to [a] before voiceless fricatives: *staff, class, path, fast, half*.
3. [ʊ] was converted to [ʌ] unless it was preceded by a labial consonant or followed by [l], [f], or [tʃ]: *run, mud, cut* vs. *full, pull bush*.

Phonetic changes triggered through spelling

1. anthem, throne, author, orthography
2. habit, hectic, history, horror, human
3. fault, assault, falcon, and vault

Morphological changes

1. you — thou
2. its
3. –eth and –s (e.g. doth and hath)

(1) Trobled minds that wakes [Shakespeare]

Syntactic changes

Possessive marker

- (1) John Browne *his* meadow
- (2) the said Daniell Williams *my* heirs
- (3) Wallings & Abbott *there* up land
- (4) Ann Harris *her* lot

Relative pronouns

1. dǣt
2. who, who, whose
3. which

The dummy auxiliary

- (1) Say you so.
- (2) I know not.
- (3) He did them build a castle.
'He caused them to build a castle.'
- (4) A castle he did build.
'He caused a castle to build.'

AUX [S V O]

6. Present Day English

Social history

1770	Cook discovers Australia
1776	Thomas Jefferson writes the Declaration of Independence
1782	Washington defeats Cornwallis at Yorktown. Britain abandons the American colonies
1788	British penal colony established in Australia
1803	Act of Union unites Britain and Ireland
1828	Noah Webster publishes his dictionary
1851	Herman Melville publishes <i>Moby Dick</i>
1922	British Broadcasting Corporation founded
1928	The <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> is published

British and American English

Phonology

1. Postvocalic [r]: [ka] vs. [kar] 'car'
2. [t] has become a flap after stressed syllables in AE
3. [æ] has become [a] in many words in BE
4. Schwa is more centralized in American English (e.g. but).

<i>British</i>	<i>American</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
[ʃɛdyʊl]	[skɛdʒʊl]	schedule
['gærɪdʒ]	[gə'ra:ʒ]	garage
[frəs'tretɪd]	[frʌ'streɪt]	frustrated
[lef'tenənt]	[lu:'tenənt]	lieutenant
[et]	[et]	ate
[naɪðər]	[niðər]	neither
[lɛʒər]	[lɪʒər]	leisure
[təməto]	[təmeto]	tomato
[mɪsaɪl]	[mɪsl]	missile
[fɛrtəɪl]	[fɛrtl]	fertile
[frædʒaɪl]	[frædʒɪl]	fragile

Morphosyntax

(1) *British*

The hotel make a point of insulting their guest.
The government are busy.

American

The hotel makes a point of insulting their guest.
The government is busy.

(2) *British*

be in hospital
go to university
be in the class

American

be in the hospital
go to the university
be in class

(3) *British*

River Thames

American

Thames river

(4) *British*

I have got a pen.

American

I have got a pen. 'possess'
I have gotten a pen. 'obtain'

(5) *British* *American*

I shall be there.

I will be there.

(6) *British*

Have you a room of your own?

American

Do you have a room of your own?

(7) *British*

The judge ordered that he should be held.

American

The judged ordered that he be held.

(8) *British*

Have you read the paper yet? No, but I shall do.

American

Have you read the paper yet? No, but I will.

(9) *British* *American*

Give me it. Gibe me it.
Give it me. *Give it me.

(10) *British*

I'll come immediately my class is over.

American

I'll come as soon as my class is over.

Lexicon

British

biscuit
chips
crisps
to grill
marrow
monkey nuts
porridge
scone
sultanas

jumper
knickers
nappy
pants
vest
waistcoat

bonnet
boot
caravan
diversion
high street
lollipop man
lorry
motorway
return ticket
roundabout
season-ticket holder
no tipping
verge
wing
zebra

cot
cupboard
dummy

American

cookie
french fries
potato chips
to broil
squash
peanuts
oat meal
muffin
raisins

sweater
(woman's) underpants
diaper
underwear
undershirt
vest

hood
trunk (of car)
trailer
detour
main street
school crossing guard
truck
turnpike
round-trip ticket
traffic circle
commuter
no dumping
should of road
fender
pedestrian crossing

crib
closet
pacifier

dustbin	trash can
garden	yard
off-license store	liquor store
redundancies	layoffs
slot machine	vending machine
sticking plaster	bandaid
sick (nauseated)	ill (generally unwell)

African American English

Phonology

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------------|
| (1) | [kɔl] | ‘cold’ |
| | [bes] | ‘best’ |
| (2) | [brn maɪ hæŋ] | ‘burned my hand’ |
| | [mɛs ʌp] | ‘messed up’ |
| | [hetəd] | ‘hated’ |
| | [ʃaʊtəd] | ‘shouted’ |

Morphology

- (3) He need to get a book from the shelf.
She want us to pass the papers to the front.

Syntax

- (4) I didn’t have no lunch.
He don’t never go nowhere.
- (5) That my bike.
The coffee cold.
- (6) Do they be playing all day?
Yeah, the boys do be messin’ around a lot.
I see her when I bee on my way to school.
The coffee be cold.

English across the world

Countries in which English is widely learned as a native language

Canada
Australia
New Zealand
South Africa
Jamaica
Trinidad / Barbados
Bahamas
Liberia

Countries in which English is one of the official languages

India
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Singapore
Nigeria
Ghana
Sierra Leone
Gambia
Malawi
Namibia
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Botswana
Swaziland
Lesotho

Countries in which English used to be one of the official languages

Kenya
Uganda
Tanzania
Philippines

English-based creoles and pidgins

Examples of English-based creoles:

1. Tok Pisin (spoken in Papua New Guinea; often called a pidgin, but it is also learned by some speakers as a native language and thus a creole)
2. Jamaican English
3. Gullah (spoken on some islands off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina)
4. Krio (spoken in Sierra Leone)
5. Sarana (spoken in Latin America)

Pidgins

Jamaican Creole:

Superstrate: English vocabulary
Substrate: West African languages structure

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| (1) | gras | = | gras | |
| | mausgras | = | moustache | |
| | gras bilong hed | ‘grass belong head’ | = | hair |
| | gras belong fes | ‘grass belong face’ | = | beard |
| | gras belong pisin | ‘grass belong bird’ | = | feathers |
| | gras belong solwara | ‘grass belong saltwater’ | = | seaweed |
| | gras antap long ai | ‘grass on top of long eye’ | = | eyebrow |
| (2) | pik | ‘gig / pigs’ | | |
| | tripela pik | ‘three pigs’ | | |
| | planti pik | ‘many pigs’ | | |
| (3) | [i e a o u] | | | |
| (4) | CV | | | |

Creoles

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------|
| (1) | <i>Krio pidgin</i> | <i>Krio creole</i> |
| | was ‘wash’ | was ‘wash’ |
| | was ‘wasp’ | waswas ‘wasp’ |
| | san ‘sun’ | san ‘sun’ |
| | san ‘sand’ | sansan ‘sand’ |

	<i>Tok Pisin pidgin</i>		<i>Tok Pisin creole</i>
'expert'	man bilong save 'man belong know'	>	saveman
'promiscuous woman'	meri belong hamback 'woman belong handback'	>	hambakmeri
'I'm sleepy'	ai belong mi I laik slip 'my eyes like sleep'	>	mi aislip nau
'he's deaf'	yau bilong em i pas 'his ears are closed'	>	em i yaupas

Morphology

<i>Tok Pisin pidgin</i>		<i>Tok Pisin creole</i>
Yu mekim sam wara i boil. 'You make some water boil'	>	Yu boil-im wara.

Syntax

- SVO
- no copula.
- Polar questions have the same word order as declarative sentences
- Question words are often bimorphemic:

wisaid 'which side'	=	'where' (Guyanese Creole)
wa mek 'what makes'	=	'why' (Guyanese Creole)
wetin 'what thing'	=	'what' (Cameroon Creole)
wanem 'what name'	=	'what/which' (Tok Pisin)
husat 'who's that'	=	'who' (Tok Pisin)
- Tense and aspect

a bin rait	'I wrote'
a de rait	'I am writing'
a bin de rait	'I was writing'
a don rait	'I have written'
a bin don rait	'I had written'
a bin don de rait	'I had been writing'

- (1) *Pidgin Tok Pisin*
Mi no save. Ol I wokim dispela haus.

Creole Tok Pisin
Mi no save olsem ol I wokim dispela haus.
'I didn't know that they built this house.'

- (2) Mi tin e buki 'I have the book'
Mi tin un buki 'I have a book'
Mi tin buki 'I have books'

Present Day English: Structure

	<i>Old strong form</i>	<i>New weak form</i>
abide	abode	abided
mow	mew	mowed
saw	sew	sawed
strive	strove	strived
swell	swoll	swelled
thrive	throve	thrived

Phonology

1. Flapping In American English)

ladder
matter
writer

2. Reintroduction of [r] along the American east coast.

3. Prosody

Phonetic changes triggered through spelling

- (1) forehead
clapboard
- (2) calm, palm, psalm, balm, alms

Morpho-syntactic changes

Comparison of adjectives

- (1) the most stillest night [Shakespeare]
- (2) big – bigger (*more big)
healthy – healthier / more healthy
wonderful – more wonderful (*wonderfuller)
- (3) ? handsomer
? hollowest

Pronouns

- (1) you – y'all
- (2) REL-pronouns
 1. *Which* can no longer be used with a human antecedent, which was still possible in Early Modern English.
 2. *Which* and *that* mark the contrast between restrictive and non-restrictive relatives: in the standard language, *which* occurs only in non-restrictive relatives and *that* occurs only in restrictive relatives.
 3. In SUBJ-relatives, the relative pronoun is obligatory, whereas in all other positions it can be omitted.
- (1) *Peter talked to the man ___ bought our company.
- (2) Peter talked to the man Jack met ___ on the street.

Modal verbs

- (1) It might rain.
- (2) That could be wrong.
- (3) I **could** tell he was happy.
- (4) He **would** play for hours at a stretch.
- (5) You **should have** gone. (vs. You should go)
- (6) They **might have** slept. (vs. They may sleep)

Particle verbs

- (1) They went away.
- (2) They took off the roof.
- (3) They took the roof off.
- (4) He **off**-took the hat.
- (5) He took **off** the hat.
- (6) He took the hat **off**.
- (7) come down with (the flu)
- (8) get away with (murder)
- (9) look forward to (your visit)

Prepositions and conjunctions

- (1) granted, pending
- (2) in front of, on the basis of

- (3) assuming that, given that
- (4) on grounds that, in view of the fact that

Standard use

convince of
married to
take charge of
in search of

New common use

convince about
married with
take charge over
in search for

Obligatory progressive

- (1) He is playing the violin. vs. He plays the violin.

Passive progressive

- (1) My car is being broken.
- (2) My house is being painted.
- (3) This problem is being discussed at today's meeting.

- (1') My car is repairing.
- (2') My house is painting.
- (3') This problem is discussing today's meeting.

'Get' passive

- (1) The walls were painted.
- (2) The walls got painted.

Gonna

- (1) I am going to marry Bill. [i.e. I am leaving **in order to** marry Bill]
- (2) ??I am going to like Bill.
- (3) I [am going [to marry [Bill]]]. >>> I [[[am [going to]] marry] [Bill]]

Grammaticalization

<i>Modern function</i>	<i>Source</i>
because [conjunction]	PP [by cause]
given [conjunction]	verb in past participle
in front of [preposition]	PP
will [auxiliary]	verb of intention
have [auxiliary]	verb of possession
-ly [derivational morpheme]	noun meaning 'form', 'body'
-hood [derivational morpheme]	noun meaning 'sex', 'quality'
a [indefinite article]	one (numeral)
the [definite article]	demonstrative

Two important principles of generative grammar:

1. Grammar and lexicon are strictly distinguished
2. The basic principles of grammar are invariable (because they are innate)

Grammaticalization has challenged these assumptions. It suggests

- that grammar is dynamic
- that there is no clear division between lexicon and grammar
- that linguistic categories have fuzzy boundaries (is 'in front of' a PP or a preposition)
- that linguistic structure is shaped by language use.

Lets

- (1) a. Let yourself down on the rope.
b. Let Bill go.
- (2) a. Let's go to the circus tonight.
b. Let's watch a movie.

- In very colloquial English, *lets* can be used with reference only to the subject:
Lets give you a hand. ('I'll give you a hand')
- *Lets* has become a frozen form so that in certain varieties of English, the original meaning of *lets* can be explicitly stated by *you and I*.
Lets you and I take 'em on for a set.
- Even the extension beyond first person subjects occurs in colloquial English:
Lets you go first, then if we have any money left I'll go.
- In other cases, there is no second person subject, and the speaker uses *lets* to encourage the hearer to perform a specific action.
Lets wash your hand.

Dimensions of grammaticalization

1. Phonological changes
phonological reduction
de-stressing of accentuated words
changes in the intonational patterns
2. Morphological changes
free form > clitic > affix > zero (e.g. I'm, hus-et)
loss of inflectional properties (e.g. *that* complementizer)
3. Syntactic changes
conventionalization of word order/position (e.g. SVO, NP)
obligatoriness (determiner in English NP)
loss of internal structure (*qu'-ce-est que* [keske])
4. Semantic level
bleaching (e.g. have)
subjectification (e.g. modals)

Some important points to note:

1. Grammaticalization is *unidirectional*: Lexical items turn into grammatical markers but not vice versa; however, there are some counterexamples (e.g. *to up, duzen*).
2. Grammaticalization is a gradual process: Grammaticalization usually takes a long time, often several centuries; however, some changes occur more rapidly.
3. Grammaticalization processes are crosslinguistically very similar: across languages we find the same kinds of developments: universal pathways of grammatical development.

Demonstrative > definite article

Demonstrative > complementizer

Demonstrative > copula

Motion verb > future tense marker

Verb of volition > modal

Body part term > preposition

4. Grammaticalization processes often run in circles: the same grammaticalization process may occur several times in the history of the same language.

Mechanisms of grammaticalization

1. Metaphorical mappings

Grammaticalization processes are often initiated by the metaphorical extension of a lexical expression. The best example is perhaps the metaphorical extension of body part terms to adpositions. In many languages across the world, we find the following derivations:

head	>	on, front
back	>	in the back of
face	>	in front of
buttock	>	under, in the back of
stomach	>	in
eye	>	front

In addition, one might argue that the frequent extension of spatial concepts to temporal concepts are based on metaphorical processes (i.e. mappings from one domain to another).

2. Conventionalization of conversational implicatures

Traugott suggests that the frequent extension of temporal conjunctions to causal conjunctions is based on the conventionalization of a conversational implicature. At first, temporal conjunctions are only interpreted causally if they appear in a specific context that suggests a causal interpretation. However, the causal interpretation may become conventional. For instance, English *since* was originally a temporal conjunction (and if used as a preposition it still is restricted to a temporal meaning). However, like other temporal conjunctions it was frequently interpreted causally. Today, the causal interpretation has become conventionalized in certain contexts. When both clauses combined by *since* refer to events, especially events in the past, the interpretation is usually temporal; but when one of the clauses refers to a non-past event or a state, the interpretation is usually causal:

- (1) *Since I have a final exam tomorrow, I won't be able to go out tonight, but don't assume a causal connection.

In German the development has progressed further: Like English *since*, German *weil* originated from a temporal conjunction. The temporal conjunction was extended by a conversational implicature to causal uses. The causal uses became dominant and conventional. Today, the temporal use has disappeared and *weil* is a causal conjunction.