

# **ANGLEŠKA HISTORIČNA SLOVNICA 1**

**3. letnik - 2000/2001**

## The History of the English Language

Geongum mannum gedafenap þæt hie leornien sumne wisdom. =

Young men should acquire some knowledge.

Alfred - 11th century

The beginning of the English language:

The Celts were the first inhabitants of the English isles. Celtic tribes migrated from the central part of Europe towards the west. Before the beginning of our era, Celtic languages were spoken in:

- Gaule (Gaulish) - France
- Britain: - Picts                      Gaelic languages
  - Scots
  - Britons                      Brythonic (Brittonic) languages

Gaelic survived as: - Irish Gaelic in Ireland

- Scots Gaelic (Erse) in Scotland
- Manx

Originally, Picts spoke Pictish, but they were assimilated by the Scots and spoke Scottish Gaelic. Gaelic and Brittonic were the two major languages.

Brittonic dialects were spoken by Britons in:

- Cornwall (Cornish)
- Wales (Welsh/Cymric)
- Brittany - France - Armorica (Breton)

Scots Gaelic is still spoken in some remote parts of Scotland and in the Highlands. Manx died out. Welsh is the mother tongue of 1/2 million people.

In 55 BC, Julius Caesar invaded the Ireland. The Romans came. Caesar wanted the frontiers to be secured (the southern part of England). Only 120 years later, the occupation became effective. Many place names were latinised:

Chester (castra - camp)  
-chester (Manchester)

In 410, the Roman legions had to withdraw from England. Britains had no way of defending from the Picts and Scots because they were not used to fighting (Romans did the fighting). Picts and Scots started to attack the south.

Bede (lat. Baeda) is nowadays considered a saint. He was a monk, scholar and historian. He said that in 449 the first Germanic tribes landed in Britain. Picts and Scots started to attack Brittonic Celts, who sent for help to the continent, to west Germanic tribes, who lived in the present-day Germany and Denmark.

The tribes that came to help were:

- Angles (Schleswig-Holstein)
- Jutes (Jutland)
- Saxons (Lower Saxony)

Britains asked for help to fight off the Celtic tribes from the north. The Saxons responded eagerly and in 449 landed in England. They first defeated the Picts and the Scots and then turned against the Britains and started to fight for the new land that they liked.

The Germanic tribes arrived in masses and the Celts were pushed towards the Celtic fringe (Wales, Cornwall, Scotland and France).

By the year 600, Britain was more or less Germanic. There were 7 kingdoms.

- Kent (south-east part of England): It was settled by the Jutes. They kept the Celtic name Kent. They continued to speak their own language (German dialects) - Kentish.
- South of the Thames: It was settled by the Saxons, who spoke Saxon dialects. There were 3 kingdoms:
  - Essex (East Saxons)
  - Sussex (South Saxons)

- Wessex (West Saxons)

- North of the Thames (up to Scotland): It was settled by the Angles, who spoke Anglian dialects (Mercian in Mercia; Northumbrian in East Anglia, Northumbria).

These dialects are relevant because whenever we have more dialects, one tends to be prestigious, which depends on the strength of the kingdom. Kent was the most prominent kingdom and economically and politically the strongest. That made Kentish dialect prestigious.

King Albert was a Kentish king, but in the 7th century, he ruled all the other kingdoms.

In the 8th century, the supremacy passed to Northumbria. At that time, Northumbrian was prestigious. Later on, the supremacy went on to Mercian. In the 9th century, Wessex became the strongest. West-Saxon dialect is the most important dialect from the historical point of view (9th - 11th century).

The period between the years 500 -1100 is the period of Old English. The language was Old English = Anglo-Saxon.

OE literature (of two sorts: some was brought from the continent, which was preserved orally for a long time - OE poetry) is the most reliable source of Old English. The most famous translator from Latin was King Alfred (West-Saxon dialect), who started the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (a written history from the conversion to Christianity in the 7th century to 11th century; the last entry in 1154). This translation exists in seven copies.

The Anglo-Saxon speech resembled Swedish and Norwegian, the bulk of words was German. Today, 50% of words is of Roman descent. The language of the masters is the source of borrowings. Very few words are of Celtic origin:

- ass (osel), bannock (jed), brock (jazbec), crag (pečina), tor, comb(e) or coomb(e)

- London (Londinium - Celtic lond=wild)
- Lindcold (Lindum Colonia - Celtic lynn=lake)
- Avon (river)
- Dover (Dubris - Celtic dwrf=water)

The hostility between the Celts and the newcomers went both ways and is still present today.

OE literature reflects the agrarian everyday life and the heroic seafaring way of life. In Beowulf, we can find many synonyms (36 words for prince, hero, knight; 17 expressions for the sea).

H. Sweet is a linguist from the 19th century.

OE pluh → plough

OE sceap → sheep

OE oxa → ox

OE ku → cow

	OE
January - Janus (a Roman god with two faces) - Prosinec (proso)	Wulf-monap (volčji mesec)
February - Februa (Roman festival of purification) - Svečan	Sprote-'kale monap (sprout; cabbage - mesec brstečega zelja)
March - Mars - Sušec	Hlyd monap
April - Apriu - Mali Traven	Easter monap (Eostre - the goddess of spring)

May - Maya (the goddess of spring) - Veliki Traven	Tri-milce monap (a month in which a cow can be milked three times a day)
June - Junius (Roman family) - Rožnik	Sere monap (the dry month)
July - Julius Caesar	Meadon monap (mesec travnika)
August (vzvišen)	Weod monap (mesec plevela)
September	Hærfest monap
October - Vinotok	Win-monap (the month of wine)
November	Blod monap (the bloody month)
December	Mid-winter monap; later on Halig monap (sveti mesec)

In OE, prefixes were very important:

- settan      set
- asettan    place
- besettan   appoint
- forsettan   obstruct
- onsettan   start
- wupsettan   resist

## The impact of Christianity

In 597, Pope Gregory I sent the mission of 50 monks, led by St Augustine, to England. They landed in Kent (at that time the most important kingdom). King Æthelberth ruled. He was very tolerant and was soon baptised. St Augustine was made Archbishop of Kent.

The Christianisation had a boost in the 17th century when a preacher Aidan started to spread Christianity from the north. He founded the monastery of Lindisfarne. He belonged to the Church of Ireland.

cross < Old Irish *cross*

Crutched Friars

1. With the conversion the construction of monasteries started.

*Learning centres* - religious matters but also astronomy, poetry, arithmetic, painting, writing

2. Another impact is seen in words.

church < OE *cyrice* < Greek *kyriakon* (= the house of the lord)

minister < OE *mynster*

devil < OE *deofol* < Greek *diabolos* (= slanderer, the enemy)

angel < OE *engel* < Greek *angelos* (= messenger)

First new words were adopted with new concepts:

1. new words

disciple (Lat. *discere* "learn")

priest (< OE *preost* < *presbyter* - Greek *presbos* "an old man"

*presboteros* "older man")

bishop (< OE *biscop* < Lat. "the watcher")

nun (< OE *nunne* < Lat. *nonna* "children's nurses")

monk (< OE *munuc* < Lat. *monachus* < Greek *monos* "being alone")

abbot (< OE *abbod* < *abba* "father")

apostle (< OE *apostol* < Greek *apostolos* "the person who is sent forward")

pope "papa"

These words came from Latin:

- camel
- lion
- cedar
- mink
- orange
- pepper

2. The new idea appropriated the old Anglo-Saxon word God.

heaven < heofon (a place for people after death)

sin < synne (transgression)

tithe < teopa (the tenth part, desetina)

Easter < Eastron (Eastra - the goddess of spring)

fiend < feond (devil)

healer < hælend      hal (whole)    halga (a person who is whole again)

gospel < god spel (good news)

By the end of the 18th century, the impact of Christianity has produced a completely new culture in England.

LINDISFARNE MS = DURHAM BOOK

This is a manuscript in 258 leaves. There are 4 gospels in Latin. Above each word there is the OE translation (Northumbrian translation) → this kind of translation is called the GLOSS. The manuscript was written in 700, the gloss was added about 200 years later.

The English lived divided into 7 kingdoms, but there were no strict frontiers. Already in the 7th century the King of Kent was recognised as Bretwalda - the ruler of Britain. Later on, this was passed on to Northumbria and Mercia.

Egbert, the king of Wessex, defeated the Mercians in 825. His grandson Alfred became the king in 871. The darkest period of England followed. From the end of the 9th century till the 11th century the Scandinavians set out and started a series of expeditions. The Swedes went to East Russia, the

Norwegians went to the west shores - Greenland, Labrador, the Danes went to the north part of France (Normandy). The collective name for all these tribes was Vikings (vik - ozek zaliv).

The Vikings started to attack the shores of England even before King Alfred, but always returned home. After that, they didn't want only plundering, they settled most of North and Central England. First, King Alfred was defeated, but in the Battle of Edington, he defeated the Danish King Guthrum. They signed the peace agreement - Treaty of Wedmore, which divided England into England and the Danelaw. The border was the road from London to Chester. Later on, he pushed the Danes further towards the north. Alfred's son Edward, and later on his son, completed the conquest of the land of the Danes.

In the 10th century, a new round of the Danish invasion occurred.

### **The effect of Scandinavian dialects on English**

For some time, the settlers spoke their own language. In some area, they gave up their language quite soon, in some parts (Scotland) the Norse language was spoken till 17th century. The English language prevailed, but the impact of the Scandinavian language was huge.

First came the **place names**. There were about 10.000 words of Scandinavian origin in English - most of them in north parts of England. The typical endings for the place names are:

- by: Derby, Rugby, Grimsby
- thorp(e): Althorp, Astonthorpe
- thwait(e): Applethwaite
- toft: Eastoft
- wick: Swainswick

The typical Anglo-Saxon endings for the place names:

- ton

- ham
- ing
- stow
- sted

These endings show that the Scandinavian nation occupied the poorer places and didn't want to disturb the Anglo-Saxons. They lived in peace. They settled on the less fertile, less inhabited places that were free.

Words that were adopted from the Scandinavians were from certain fields:

- navigation: barda, lip, ran, cnearr  
    orrest (battle)

None of these words survived, but we find them in the OE texts.

- government, administration: law (of Scandinavian origin)

After the Norman conquest, these words were replaced, changed or forgotten. In these fields, the Danes were superior → new concepts → new words. The hostility between these two nations didn't last long. The nations began to merge.

These words are everyday words, not new concepts:

- nouns: - band, bank, birth
  - dirt, egg, fellow, kid, sister, skill, swim, sky
  - window
- verbs: - call, get, give, take
  - die, want, raise, nag
- pronouns: - they, them, their
  - both, some

There are some indicators that show the Scandinavian origins. For example:

- **k** followed by -i or -e is pronounced **k** (skirt)  
    in Anglo-Saxon, it is pronounced **š** (shirt)
- **g** followed by -i or -e is pronounced **g** (give)  
    in Anglo-Saxon, it is pronounced **j** (gievan)

These words used to have the same meaning, but through time, they changed and now bear completely different meanings:

<b>Norse</b>	<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>
skirt	shirt
skin	hide
die	starve
want	wish
skill	craft
nay	no
raise	rear
fro	from
sick	ill
scot	shot

Some words differ in their usage.

### **Grammar**

The fact that the ending -s in the 3rd person singular replaced the old -th ending is most probably the influence of the Scandinavian dialects. The form of the verb be-are is of Scandinavian origin.

The Scandinavian impact on the English language was important and strong. That is why these words stayed in the English language. The relations between these two nations were close and intense. They lived in peace, that is why the words were so easily adopted.

### **The Norman conquest**

Normandy: - eastern part of France

- Norsemen

- the Danish or Viking impressers

- occupied France at the same time when the Danes occupied England

The king of France was forced to sign a kind of agreement with the Vikings' king Rollo, granting him the title the Duke of Normandy. They called the place after themselves. "The king of France is our overlord, but we have the title." They adopted the legal system, the words, the way of living. The Normans were by the 14th century the most oppressive Europeans. They became the most powerful "nation" of all Frenchmen.

When the Danes in England already merged with the Anglo-Saxons, they exiled the Anglo-Saxon king to France. He married there. His son Edward the Confessor returned to England and influenced the whole country with the French culture. He died childless, that is why the Earls elected another king from among themselves - Harold. But the Duke of Normandy assumed that he is the one who should be the king. He said that Edward promised him the throne. William didn't want to give up the crown. First, he supported the Norman vassals. Then he went to Rome and got the blessing of the pope. In **September 1066**, he landed with his army on the southern shores of England. Harold was there fighting against the Norwegian king. Harold was successful and went back to south to fight William. His position was very strong, that is why William faked retreat and then Anglo-Saxons followed. On the field they lost. The king Harold was killed. He began with conquest of the villages, burned them and then moved towards London. In 1066, William was crowned in London as their king. The last of the English Earls was executed in 1076.

The Normans held the following important positions for two centuries:

- government
- church
- administration

All the newcomers spoke French. Even the English who wanted to get promoted started to speak French. The English language was reduced to the tongue of the lower classes (common people). Even the literature in those times was written in French. The most important factor was the close connection between England and France. Some families had land in England

and in France. The Duke of Normandy was at the same time the King of England. The Channel did not divide but connected. The French king didn't like the situation. The tensions between those who had interests in England and those who had interests only in France grew. The real cause was the power - the land, the money. The excuse was a woman that the English king John married. At that time, she was engaged to a member of a very important French family. He said: "Let's attack them first." The family went to the French king Phillip. "The English king" had to come to Paris to the court, but he didn't.

**Result:** The King of France took away King John's land in France.

Both kings demanded from their people to give up their land in the opposite country.

The French-speaking King of England needed this language - English.

**Hundred years' war:** It is a series of armed conflicts between France and England (1337 - 1453).

- political factor: The throne of France, also the struggle for the interest in Flanders. The rule of the French speaking kings was not very popular. The house of **Plantagenets = Angerins** (not a very popular dynasty). English language first came back in churches. Sermons and carols were rendered in English language at the beginning of 13th century. French is still the official language. After **1204**, when king John lost Normandy, English was becoming an alternative for French.
- The other factor in restoration of English was the Black Death - the **bubonic plague** (črna kuga) that reached England in **1348**. The death rate was 90%. Since it killed so many people, not enough people were available for the work. In monasteries, many monks died too and they were replaced by people who didn't speak neither French nor Latin. English grammar was taught in schools again.

After the plague, in **1356**, the mayor of London ordered that court proceedings be heard in English → English came back to the court. In **1362**,

the chancellor opened the Parliament's session in English. In **1381**, **king Richard II** addressed the peasants in English. In **1404**, **Henry III** claimed and accepted the English crown in English (the last coronation in English was in 1066 - William the Conqueror). *Year 1404 is the year of the official restoration of English.*

This English was a completely different language so it is called the **ME** (Middle English). ME - the English that must have been spoken during the period from 1066/1100 (Norman conquest) to 1485/1500 (the year the Tudors came to power).

French left a deep impression, the most important influence on the vocabulary, more than 50% of words of French origin. Grammar and structure also changed. Areas where French words were adopted:

1. Government and administration:

state, government, rein, realm, minister, chancellor, council, authority, parliament, nation, people

2. the feudal system:

feudal, vassal, liege, prince, marquis, count, countess

BUT: king, queen, lord, lady - of Anglo-Saxon origin

3. military matters:

army, war, battle, assault, siege, soldier, sergeant, navy, admiral, general, lieutenant

4. law:

justice, judge, jury, to summon, to plead

5. ecclesiastical life:

saint, Virgin, Saviour, parish, service

6. household:

master, mistress, servant, madam, sir, obey, command, order

7. food:

Anglo-Saxon

pig, swine → pork

ox, con → beef

calf → veal

sheep → mutton

deer → venison

French names for animals, English names for meat

French: fry, boil, roast, dinner, supper, sauce, soup

Anglo-Saxon: cook, breakfast, lunch

8. occupations:

Anglo-Saxon: smith, shoemaker, weaver, miller, teacher

French: tailor, mason, butcher, carpenter, joiner

SYNONYMS also survived, native word often has a more popular colloquial connotation, whereas French ones have a slight difference in meaning, are more formal and refined.

<i>Anglo-Saxon</i>	<i>French</i>
hut	cottage
clothes	dress
friendship	amity
hearty	cordial
holy	saint
lonely	solitary
deed	action
indeed	in fact
begin	commence
hide	conceal
find	discover
look for	search
inner	interior
outer	exterior
feed	nourish
hinder	prevent
give	present/deliver

DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES: added to A-S stems goddess, enlightenment, leakage, fishery, addity, hindrance, -able → HYBRIDS - words that are made of different origins, usually the stem vs native and the morpheme of foreign origin

## WORD ACCENT

The process of nativization began, first the pronunciation was adjusted. Since English is a Germanic language, the word accent is on the first syllable, except if the syllable is a prefix. In French, the accent is on the last syllable.

When the English pronounced the French words, they maintained the French accent. Words were treated differently if they were non-verbs. If the word was used as a verb, the accent didn't move but retained on the last syllable. If the word had the accent on the last syllable, it was a disyllabic and not a verb → the accent was transferred to the 1st syllable.

<u>non-verb</u>	<u>verb</u>
present	present
absent	absent
rebel	rebel
frequent	frequent
produce	produce

In verbs ending in -ish (finish, punish) and -er (enter), the accent was shifted to the first syllable.

chaise < (central French chacier); chattle      ch → /t /

catch, cattle c → /k/

war < CF guerre

NF were

Words were mainly taken from the Norman French and not from the central French dialect.

Words beginning with ch /t / change in French / /:

chamber /t / → chambre / /

English /d / - French / /; judge

**Nouns** and **adjectives** were always adopted in the **accusative form**, the **ending -s**. In ME only two endings survived -n (oxen) and -s.

Verbs were adopted in the present stem of the French plural form and not of the infinitive.

je survis /

nous survivons survive

infinitive finir

je finis

nous finiss - ons finish

If the infinitive was adopted, this was not considered a verb, but a noun.

French verb: dinner - English noun

dine - English verb derivation

diner - noun

reminder - noun

remind - verb

The grammatical structure of English changed completely, and not only the vocabulary.

ME - not a uniform language

OE - dialects evolved → ME dialects

OE Northumbrian dialects → ME northern dialects

OE Mercian dialects → ME Midlands dialects

- West Midlands

- East Midlands
- Central Midlands

OE Saxon, Kentish dialects → ME Southern dialects

In OE, West-Saxon was the most prestigious dialect. In the ME, London became the political, economic and cultural centre. The most prestigious dialect was London - Oxford - Cambridge.

OE ieldra > ME ildron

elder

not after the rule ie → i, but e after the London dialect

Why did London dialect become so prestigious?

- economic, cultural centre
- the government, the king, administration
- **John Wycliff** (a translator of the Bible; in 1382, he was declared heretic) and **Geoffrey Chaucer** (1340 - 1400; used the English language for poetry, prose; he used synonyms (English, French); his characters speak in different dialects) wrote in the London dialect

At the time of ME, surnames and family names emerged.

- Thomson, Johnson - the son of John
- Mac, Mc < old Irish makka = son - MacNeal - son of Neal
- O' - son of...
- Evanss - the son of Evan In Slovene, -ič - Blažič - the son of Blaž
- after their occupation - Smith, Thatcher
- after the place they lived - Brook, Hill

In the **15th century**, an important step towards the **standardisation** of English happened. The printing press was invented - in **1476**, **William Caxton** established the **first printing house**. He was the editor, publisher, writer, translator of his own works. When printing, you need standards. He was in a position to encourage one variant, one dialect oppose to the other.

The spelling of the Modern English reflects the pronunciation of the Middle English. London dialect became the standard form.

The printing made books available and that was the most important contribution to the Renaissance. The result was the education and the rise of the middle class. W. Caxton marks the start of the **Renaissance** in Europe (England). From 1500, we talk of the ME (Modern English).

**1500** - the **Tudors** rise to the throne

- the beginning of the Reformation
- the beginning of the discoveries

Renaissance:

- the rebirth, revival of the old classical art, not of the Latin church
- the new discoveries

For some time, English language was again over flooded with Latin words, but now, this was admired, not for necessity, but because it was fashionable. They were called **half-chewed**. Scholars turned their backs to the Middle English Latin and started to write in the Classical Latin. French was looked upon as corrupted Latin. Because of that, they were remodelled. When French adopted the Latin words, they lost some characteristics.

Middle English:

after Renaissance:

perfet

perfect (lat. perfectum)

verdit

verdict

aventurre

adventure

peynture

picture

avis

advise

egal

equal

dette

debt

the spelling changed but

doute

doubt

the pronunciation didn't

Sometimes, this remodelling affected only the derivatives:

colour - discolouration (in the derivative, we have the Latin form)

example - exemplary

mouth - oral  
 nose - nosy, nasal  
 eye - ocular  
 mind - mental  
 sun - sunny - solar  
 moony - lunar  
 star - starry - stellar  
 mother - motherly - maternal

Anglo-Saxon origin

adjectives of Latin origin

son	filial
ox	bovine
house	domestic
book	literary
town	urban(e)
Oxford	Oxonian
Cambridge	Cantabridgian/Cantabrian
Manchester	Mancunian
Glasgow	Glaswegian

Sometimes, Latin words coexisted with the words of native origin:

fatherly - paternal  
 motherly - maternal  
 nosy - nasal  
 heavenly - celestial  
 knowledge - science  
 ghost - spirit  
 timely - temporal - temporary  
 kingly - royal (Fr) - regal (Lat)  
 youthful - juvenile  
 (un)readable - (un)legible  
 same - identical  
 womanly - womanish - female - feminine  
 manly - masculine - male

Bound morphemes of Latin origin were adopted to English and became the productive morphemes nowadays.

Suffixes:

-ation - starvation  
 -ist - walkist  
 -ite - Irvingite  
 -ism - witticism  
 -cracy - landocracy  
 -ize - womanize  
 -ative - talkative

Prefixes:

anti-  
 ex-  
 re-  
 de-  
 in-  
 un-  
 inter-

Words of Latin origin were pronounced as in Latin, but gradually, they were readjusted. They were not accented as the English words. In verbs, the accent was intacted, in non-verbs, it was transferred two syllables before the original accent.

lat. artificial      **first stage:** a secondary accent evolves  
 magnitud(inis) two syllables before the original

**second stage:** The second accent becomes the primary accent, the primary accent become secondary or is gone. Words that went through these stages usually end in -tude or -lute.

magnitude

This is the time when trade and science were internationalised. New countries and new words were discovered.

French: bigot, detail

Italian: gondola, macaroni, lara, balcony, portico, cupola

Spanish: matador, armada, embargo, desperado

Persian: caravan, dernish, paradise

Russian: steppe

Hungarian: hussar

Mexico: chocolate, tomato, totem, tomahawk

Dutch: yacht, cruise, iceberg, deck, easel, etch, sketch, smuggle, reef, landscape

Polynesian: taboo

Arabic: algebra, alchemy, alcohol, (almost all words starting with al-), cipher, zero, zenith, nadir

From 10 000 - 20 000 new words were added to English language during the Renaissance. The Tudor policy in the Reformation led to the isolation of England from Europe.

Two styles of English evolved:

- inkhorn: foreign, sophisticated words
- plainness: sticking to the original Anglo-Saxon, perhaps to the French origin

The result was a language of richness and beauty, but grammar collapsed, since these new words defined the rules.

(to) happy your friend

(to) foot your enemy

to fall an axe on his neck

No one wrote with greater boldness than **William Shakespeare**. He has one of the largest vocabulary of the English writers. He used inkhorn and plainness terms, 30 000 different words (vs the translation of the Bible in the 17th century - 8000 words).

exist, initiate, jovial, accommodation, assassination, frugal, obscene, premeditated

- the humorous night - damp
- how she might tongue me - jezikati
- to out-herod - to be worse than Herod
- uncle me no uncle - ne ti mene s stricem

Stock phrases (Shakespeare's expressions):

- frailty thy name is woman
- something is rotten (in the state of Denmark) - nekaj gnilega
- the time is out of joint
- it's Greek to me - španska vas
- salad days - zelena leta - young
- to vanish in thin air
- to be tongue tied
- fair/foul play
- it's high time
- to be the laughing stock

The faith of people was diversified as well. **Henry VIII** broke away from Rome (1534). Since books were available and there were so many translations of the Bible, people were puzzled. An important step towards the standardisation of English:

- John Wycliff: 14th century; denounced heretic
- William Tyndale (1528): He translated the New Testament from Greek.
- Coverdale (1535)

**1535 - 1568** five major versions were published:

- Mathew's Bible
- Taverner's Bible
- Bishop's Bible
- Genera Bible
- Crammer's Bible

The doctrine that was incorporated in these version was different. The person who wanted to put an end to this diversity, conflicts and different interpretation was king **James I**. In January **1604**, he sponsored and presided over a special conference of bishops to reconcile religion's differences. He sponsored the official translation of the Bible. It took them six

years (six groups of translators) and another year to translate the Bible. **King James' Bible** was published in **1611**. The language that was used was brought into every home in England. One of the translators, John Bois, kept a diary during this time. They wrote in the London dialect. But this version didn't smooth the friction between the Anglicans and the Puritans (they swore on the Geneva Bible, many migrated to America).

In 1606, a special law (under the pressure of the Puritans) was passed, prohibiting profane language. Expressions (by God, by Jove, dear me) started to be used.

devil was replaced with deuce, dickens

bl- words were banned: blamed, bloody

bull, stallion, cock - prohibited

Many scientific discoveries contributed new words, too (Newton's gravity). They became aware that the language needs some regulations, especially because it was changing so quickly. They wanted to remove excessive ornaments.

One of those who deplored the corruption of English was **Jonathan Swift**. The first English dictionary (for those who wanted to sound learned) was written by **Robert Cawdray**. The first monolingual dictionary was written in **1752** by dr. **Samuel Johnson** - definitions of more than 40 000 words, illustrated with over 114 000 quotations. The main contribution was standardisation of English language.

Before the 18th century, all grammar books were based on Latin grammar. In 1762, Joseph Priestley published *The Rudiments of English Grammar*. The grammar was not only descriptive but also prescriptive.

## **The History of the American Standard English**

**The factors:**

1. The majority of English settlers came to America in the 17th century from East Anglia.
2. They came into contact with other nations and other languages. The English language absorbed many new words from Indian, Spanish, French, Jewish...
3. The Americans wanted their language to be different from the one spoken in Britain/national identity.

### Archaisms:

1. American language shows some characteristics of the archaic language:
  - punctuation of the vowel: Am. grass /æ/, Brit. grass /ɑ:/  
 In the 17th century, the vowel was pronounced /æ/ in England, before, in Middle English, the vowel was /ɑ:/, it was again /ɑ:/ after the 17th century, but didn't affect the pronunciation of American /æ/.
  - pronunciation of /r/: car, carbon  
 It was pronounced in the 14th and 15th centuries in England, towards the end of the 17th century, it started to weaken at the initial, post-vocalic position.  
 /r/ disappeared in the 18th century. In American English, /r/ is weakened (it is an approximant). But in New England (Boston) and in some south countries, it is not pronounced.
  - the pronunciation of hot, not  
 leisure /li: r/  
 either, neither: Am. /i:/, Br. /aɪ/
  - American English has preserved second accent in words of Latin origin - secretary.
  - In NE, /j/ disappeared before (š, ž, č, dž, l, r). In East Anglia, /j/ disappeared before all dentals: duty /'du:tɪ/, New York /'nu:/.  
 get got got  
 gotten Am. - common in BrE until the 18th century  
 mad: Br. crazy, Am. angry: In Shakespeare's times it was used as angry.  
 sick: Br. you vomit, Am. ill

rare meat - undone meat

fall - the old word for autumn in English

I guess - very common in the 17th century

The use of the subjunctive more common in AmE, since it was used in the 17th century.

2. The contact with the native Americans. They enriched the language with 'wigwam' (Ind. tent) words.

hickory - ameriški beli oreh

pecan - almost the same

chipmunk, moose, papoose - baby

squaw - žena

igloo, powwow - a meeting

### **Phrases:**

to bury the hatchet, to wear war-paints, Indian summer, Indian file - gosji red (eden za drugim)

Sometimes, it's not easy to say whether some words came via Spanish or Indian, since the English were not the first settlers in America. The French were also there before. Louisiana - after King Louis

marihuana, tornado, stompedo - Spanish

brioche, gopher (fr. gauffre) - words that came to English via America

Cajuns - a linguistic minority in Louisiana, of French decent. Before, they lived in Acadia (today Nova Scotia).

Dutch - parts of New York still have Dutch names (Brooklyn, Bronx, Harlem, cookie, waffle, boss, knickers, Yankees).

the Pennsylvania Dutch (as Deutsch, not the Netherlands)

Many migrants from Bavaria to Pennsylvania developed a hybrid language - like a pidginised form of German.

mafia - boldness

Yidish: kosher (the food that is approved) = anything that is regular, accepted

schmuck = idiot

schmalz = excessive sentimentality

goyim = gentile (non-Jewish)

Most of the names of American states originate in native American languages:

Oklahoma → red people

Idaho, Kansas, Illinois, Alabama → named after the Indian tribes

Michigan → great water

Chicago → the place of onions

Mississippi → the big river

Missouri → a person with a canoe

Utah → the dwellers on the top of the mountains

Minnesota → cloudy river

Texas → tejas (Spanish) → friends

Kentucky → the land of meadows

Canada → a village or a community

Spanish origin:

Florida → the country of flowers

Colorado → the land of colour

California → an imaginary island in one of the Spanish romances

Nevada → the snowy river

Montana → the state of mountains

Indiana → the state of Indians

French origin:

Oregon → ouregan → hurricane

Other origins:

Virginia → after Elizabeth I (the Virgin Queen)

Carolina → after Charles I

Pennsylvania → after William Penn

the land of forests

Delaware → after baron De La Warr

### 3. Three periods:

- 1607 - 1787

1607 - Jamestown becomes independent

1787 - American revolution, the Congress declares independence

- 1787 - 1860

1860 - the beginning of the Civil War

New immigrants arrived, especially from Ireland (after 1845 - the Potato Famine) and from Germany (1848 - revolutions in Europe).

- 1860 →

New immigration waves from:

- Scandinavia

- Slavic countries

- Africa (slaves)

- Jews

- Hispanics (from Central and South Americas)

- Far East

The most important part concerning the standard American English comes with the independence - **patriotism**.

**Noah Webster** (1758-1845): He was a lawyer and a teacher. Because of that, he needed school books, so he decided to write his own books. He wrote between 1783 and 1785.

*A Grammatical Institute of the English Language* has three volumes:

1st: The Spelling Book (1783)

2nd: A Grammar Book (1784)

3rd: A Reader (1785)

His greatest work: *An American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828).

He promoted **spelling reforms**:

traveler, color, check (BrE cheque), ax (BrE axe), program (BrE programme), theater (BrE theatre)

He also suggested that the **pronunciation be simplified**:

angel - engel

ancient - encient

danger not /deɪnd / but /dænd /

Only the spelling reforms were accepted. But under his influence, the secondary accent is preserved: se'cretary.

AmE is not a dialect but has its own standards. It is much more uniform than BrE, but there are some differences:

- The dialect of New England sounds much more like BrE (grass → /a:/, /r/ is silent).

- instead of r - /oɪ/ in New York bird /boɪd/

! accents yes, dialects no

Many expressions from AmE are also found in BrE:

- from sport: homerun, strikeout, to get to the 1st base, to throw a curve, to take a rain check, touchdown, to play ball

- joint, sucker, to fix something

- dishes: French fries, hairdo, know-how

- university expressions:

AmE	BrE
term paper	a long essay
papers are graded	papers are marked
thesis	dissertation
faculty	teaching staff
freshman	first year student
campus	the students' residence

Many expressions from BrE are also found in AmE:

cricket: hat trick

### The historical background of the three varieties of BrE

**Cockney** - cock ey → something inferior since this was the language of the Londoners that were not part of the court, middle and lower classes (16th century). The transformation into working class speech in East London happened in the 18th century (the age of S. Johnson and his correct English). At that time, many people came to London, especially to the eastern part, in search of work. These immigrants added their own accents.

One of the most distinctive features between the spoken and the standard English is the vowel /a:/ in grass and class.

- instead of th [ ] they pronounce [f]

[ ] they pronounce [v]

- /v/ and /w/ can be misplaced

- silent h /a s/ house

#### Scotland:

The official language is standard English. Scottish English is considered to be one of the many dialects of English language. Until the 16th century, Scottish English known as **Scots** was a standard of its own. Scotland was independent for a very long time.

Scots - a Celtic tribe from Ireland. After their Norman invasion, the Scottish king welcomed families, nobility that came from the south to the north. Soon the French language was spoken in the court, as throughout Europe. King David allowed the immigrants from the south to establish boroughs - English was spoken there. Some Gaelic words came to English language. This language is nowadays known as the **Older Scottish Tongue**, which had a golden age of literature (14th-16th century). In those times this Tongue differed from Chaucer's as Danish from Swedish does.

Some believe that authors were influenced by Shakespeare and started to write in southern English. King James I moved his court to London, so it also became the capital of Scotland. When he prescribed that the English translation of the Bible is the official one, this influenced the impact of southern English a lot.

Since Scots still believe they are different, they used the Scottish variety nowadays (**Lellands**) - this builds Scottish national identity and also newspapers are published in it.

"Write in English, speak in Scottish, feel in Gaelic."

### **The History of the English Phonology**

The first documents that were written in English were written in **runic alphabet**, which was also called "Futhark" because of the first sequence of letters.

- They were sharpened rectangular.
- in small inscriptions

These inscriptions were written in runic alphabet, later on, in the 9th and 10th centuries, they were written in the **Roman alphabet**.

Letters used in OE for vowels:

⟨a, æ, e, i, o, u, y⟩

Almost all of them were phonemes. Between these vowels, there was a phonemic opposition.

The origin of OE a, æ was the same → germ. \*a

OE a, æ < germ. \*a

That happened in all cases, but not in those examples where the preceding vowel was a back vowel.

OE dæg                      allophones

pl. dagas

imperative: far! - travel

noun: fær - voyage

They functioned as **positional variants**.

OE [o] <a, o> < germ. \*/ - [+ nasal]

<mann, monn> - written

[mon]

e, i → also from Germanic e and i

but OE o, u, y → had the same origin - germ. \*u

OE u, o, y < germ. \*u

All started with **variations**:

germ. \*u > OE u → as a result of **a-mutation / back mutation**

germ. \*u > OE y → as a result of **i-mutation / palatal mutation**

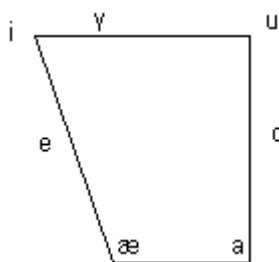
germ. \*gulpan > OE gold

IE \*pln- > germ. \*full - i - (when used as a verb, affix i)

\*full- (adj) → OE fyllan (verb) > NE ['fill]

OE full (adj)

Quality of vowels:



But in OE, the quantity of vowels mattered as well.

short OE a, æ, e, i, o, u, y      these are different phonemes  
long OE a, æ, e, i, o, u, y

To indicate the length of the vowel they used **diacritic symbols**.

Macron - indicates the length (a)

OE eo, ea, ie      OE diphthongs evolved from

OE eo, ea, ie      Germanic diphthongs

### Changes:

→ 9th century:

OE [+ vowel, -long] → [+ long] / [+ sonorant] [+ homorganic, + voiced consonant.]

= a vowel, not long but short, became long if followed by a liquid (er) or nasal (n, m)

A short vowel is lengthened if followed by a liquid or a nasal + its homorganic voiced consonant, but only if that was at the end of the word or if another vowel followed. If it was followed by a consonant, that didn't occur.

homorganic to l → d

m → b

n → d, y

Example:

OE n. sg. cild > cild > ME child > NE ['t aɪld] here, it is lengthened

n. pl. cildru > cildru > ME childer + -en > NE ['t ɪldr n] here, it remained short, because -ed is followed by another consonant -r

The difference between i and I is only positional.

OE period (11th century):

Fæder ure þu be eart on heofonum gehalgod si þin nama.

ME period:

Oure fadir which art on hevenes ihalwid be thi name.

'ure' and 'oure' - pronounced the same

We have no evidence of concrete reasons for changes.

OE dah (testo)

one - can be explained in an easy manner.

Dependent changes:

- environment forces the changes
- you need less energy for the pronunciation of the changed words

Independent changes:

- are not dictated by environment
- free variation - 1st stage

vowels are basics - the most recognisable

More than 50 % of languages have 5 vowels, some have less than 5 vowels, but rarely less than 3 vowels.

Cardinal systems:

3 vowels	i	u	5 vowels	i	u	7 vowels	i	u
		a		e	o		e	o
				a				
								a

OE system of short vowels:

i    y    u  
 e    o  
 æ    a

The first change that occurred from OE to ME:

OE æ > ME a

OE [ ] > ME a

OE a > ME a

OE glæd > ME glad > NE ['glæd] glad

OE pankian, ponkian > ME thanken

Both variants must have co-existed.

cyssan OE y > ME i <y> (in most dialects, late OE)

OE cyssan > ME kissen > NE kiss ['kɪs]

In Kent (south-east):

OE y > ME e

OE y > ME y <u> → West Midlands

This explains why bury is pronounced as ['beri].

bury

OE byrian > ME - biren <byren> (in most dialects)

- beren (south-east)

- byren <buren> (West Midland)

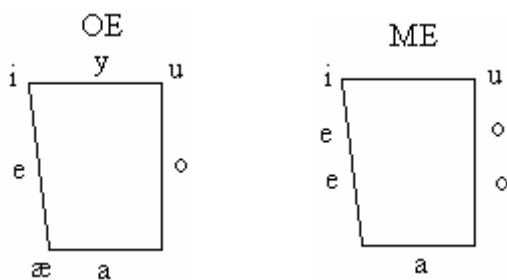
Today it is spelled as in West Midland and pronounced as in south-east.

ME vowel system: i u

e o

a

OE long vowels:



The sources of ME long vowels:

- OE long vowels

- OE short vowels

OE i > ME i

OE y > ME i

OE mys > ME mis > NE ['maɪs] mice

OE u > ME u <ou>

OE e > ME e

OE æ > ME e                      e = æ

OE o > ME o

OE a > ME o              OE stan > ME ston > NE ['stɒn] stone

OE a > ME a

English	German
bone	Baim
home	Heim
stone	Stein

OE diphthongs → monophthongs in ME

OE eo > ME e              OE hearte > ME herte > NE [ha:t] heart

OE ea > ME a              OE eall > ME all > NE [ɔ:l] all

OE ie > i (WS - West Saxon in OE) / ME e (Anglian)

OE e (Anglian)

OE comparative ieldra (positive eald) > ME (ildre - WS) eldre (Anglian) > NE  
[eldr] elder

long diphthongs → long monophthongs

OE eo > ME e              OE beon > ME ben > NE [bi:] be

OE ea > ME e              OE stream > ME strem > NE [stri:m] stream

OE ie the same change as with short ie

## The sources of ME diphthongs

### 1. OE vowel+W > ME U-typed

OE feawe > ME few(e > feu > NE [fju:] few

### 2. OE < , g>: pronounced as: [g]

[ɣ] > [w]

[j] > [j]

palatal

OE dæg [j] (sg); pl dagas [ɣ]

ME dai dawes

### 3. OE <h>: [h] glottal, initial position

[x] velar, voiceless fricative

[ç] palatal

OE [X, C] > ME <gh>: [x] velar

[C] palatal

OE dah > ME dough > NE [d ] dough

<w, u> (not in the centre of the syllable, non-syllabic)

OE lahta > ME light(e > NE [eIt] ate

ME ui, oe - of foreign origin

OE tigele [j] (ti ele) > ME tile > NE [taIl] tile

OE bugan > ME buw(en > bu > NE [ba ] bow <ou> (French) → [u:]

## Dependent changes

In ME vowels were shortened or lengthened in certain circumstances.

### Shortening of the vowels

1. Long vowels became short before two consonants.

$V > \bar{V} / \_ \{C_2, C:\}$

OE cepan, pret. cepte

ME kep(e)n, pret. kept(e)

NE [ki:p], [kept]

meten, pret. mette

wind: [wɪnd]

[waɪnd]

less, least

OE læssa, læst

ME less(e), lest

To indicate the shortening of the vowels, consonants were doubled.

copor <coppor>

capp

2. Long vowels became short if at least two syllables followed the syllable in which the vowel was found (third syllable from the back).

$V > \bar{V} / C_1 V_1 C_1 V_1 C_0$

NE [sa : ] : [s n]

south : southern

OE sup : superne

ME suth : suthern(e)

wild [waɪld] : wilderness [wɪld n z]

3. Long vowels were shortened in unaccented positions, sometimes also weakened to / ɪ /.

OE 'an 'one'

OE °an

ME 'on > won > NE wun > wun > [w ɪ] one

ME °a(n > NE: [ ɪ ] a

[ ɪ ] an

OE of

### Lengthening of the vowels

1. ME short vowels became long in penultimate (the one before the last) open syllables.

V > V / \_\$ C<sub>1</sub> V C<sub>0</sub>

OE sceadu; oblique cases: sceadwe

ME shade > NE [ eɪd] shade

ME shadw(e > NE [ æd ] shadow

OE nama > ME nam(e > NE [neɪm] name

OE mus (sg.) mys (pl.)

ME mus <mouse> mis <mice>

French influence (u → ou)

hus <house>

The quality of the vowel e changed to a if followed by r in the same syllable.

ME e > a / \_r {C, #}

ME persoun > parsen > NE [pa:s n] > parson

Herbst : harvest

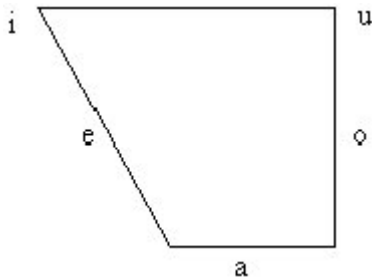
sterben : starve

Zwerg : dwarf

## Modern English (1500)

There appear significant changes in pronunciation, but the spelling stays the same.

### NE short vowels:



Only a and u changed.

ME a > NE [æ]

OE glæd > ME glad > NE [glæd] glad

In Northern dialects, a is preserved.

Exception to the rule:

was

ME a > NE [ɪ] / w\_[- velar consonant] - if it was not followed by a velar consonant

OE wæs > ME was > NE [wɪz] was

Exception to this rule:

waggon [æ]          æ + velar consonant!!

wag [æ]

quack [æ]

twang [æ]

ME u > NE [ʌ]

OE cuppe > ME cup(p(e > NE [kʌp] cup

Exception to the rule:

push, bull, pull, bush, butcher

ME u > NE [ ] / [+ labial] \_ {š, l}

Exception: bulb, pulse

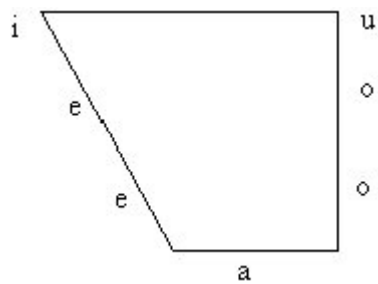
love

son

wolf

### NE long vowels:

the Great Vowel Shift (14th - 18th century)



ME i > NE [aɪ]

ME time > NE [taɪm] time

ME u > NE [a ]

ME hus > NE [ha s] house

	1550		1600		1700	
i	>	[ij]	>	[ei]	>	[aɪ]
u	>	[uw]	>	[ou]	>	[a ]

ME e > NE [i:]

ME ben > NE [bi:] be

ME o > NE [u:]

ME gos > NE [gu:z] goose

ME fot > NE [f t] foot

ME fet > NE [fi:t] feet

e >>> e >>> [i:]

o >>> o >>> [ou] > [ ]

ME se > NE [si:] sea

ME bot > NE [b t] boat

ME e <ee>, <e> in open syllables (be)

ME e <ea>

ME o <oo>

ME o <oa>, <o> in open syllables

ME a > NE [eI]

ME name > NE [neIm] name

a > æ > e > [eI]

### **The development of ME diphthongs**

- ME ai > ai > NE [eI]

ME ei > ai > NE [eI]

13th century

OE dæg > ME dai > NE [deI] day

[j]

OE græg > ME grei > NE [greI] grey

- ME iu, eu, [ü] > iu > NE [ju:]

13th century

OE feawe > ME feu > fiu > NE [fju:] few

ME amusen > amius(e(n > NE [ m'ju:z] amuse

- ME au > NE [ :]

ME cause > NE [k :z] cause

- ME ou > NE [ ]

OE cnawan > ME know(e(n > NE [n ] know

ME ou > NE [ :] / \_ [xt]

fought, bought, thought

- ME ui > <oi> > NE [ I]

ME oi > <oi> > NE [ I]

ME choice > NE [t Is] choice

ME boil(e(n > NE [b Il] boil

[ui]

### **Dependent changes:**

ME a / \_ [+ fricatives - voiced]

before voiceless fricatives

ME a > NE [æ] independent change

cat, cap, map

ME a > [ ] /w\_ [- velar + consonant]

was, want

class, grass, path [a:]

ME a > NE [æ] > [æ] > [a:]  
17th c. 18th c.

Standard American English is based on the language that was spoken in East Anglia in 17th century.

father [a:]

rather [æ] or [a:]

off [ f] or [ :f] - archaic

ME a / \_ r \$ > NE [a:]

ME a > NE [æ] > [æ] > [a:]

16th c. 17th c.

car, carbon, March

ME o > NE [ :] / \_ r \$

for, fourth

ME e

ME i > NE [3:] / \_ r \$

ME u

serve, fir, fur, sir

fire ME i + r > [aI ]

our ME u + r > [a ]

here ME e + r > [I ]

poor ME o + r > [ ]

[ :]

bear ME e + r > [3 ]

more ME o + r > [ ]

bare ME a + r > [3 ]



u > NE [ɪ] / [+bilabial] \_ {l, š}

u > NE [ɜ:] / \_ r \$ fur

**Long vowels:**

ME a > NE [eɪ] base

a > NE [ɜ ] fare

ME e > NE [i:] be

e > NE [ɪ ] / \_ r here

ME e > NE [i:] cap

e > NE [ɜ ] / \_ r bear

ME u > NE [ ] house

u > NE [a ] / \_ r our

ME o > NE [u:] fool

o > NE [ , ] poor

ME o > NE [ ] boat

o > NE [ ] / \_ r more

ME i > NE [aɪ] time

i > NE [aɪ ] fire

**Diphthongs:**

ME ei > NE [eɪ] day, grey

ai

ME eu > NE [ju:] few

iu

ME au > NE [ : ] cause

ME ou > NE [ ] low

ME ui > NE [ I] bay, boat

oi

OE tima name

ME tim[ ] nam[ ]

OE sceadu > ME shad[ ]

sunu > ME sun[ ]

OE

*singular*

*plural*

stan

stanas

stanes

stana

stane

stanum

stan

stanas

ME stones

Grammatical morphemes contained unaccented vowels.

Unaccented vowels in the final position weakened to [ ], but it was soon dropped.

ME [ ] > 0 / \_ #

ME [ ] > 0 in grammatical endings

ME [ ] > 0 > NE [ ], [I]

ME time > NE [taIm]

OE - as > ME -[ z] > NE [s], [z], [Iz]

- es

ston[ ] [z] > stones [st n z]

cappes > [kæps]

houses > ME [ha zIz]

contrée - a word of French origin (French words are normally stressed on the last syllable) → accent was moved forward, but some stress remained on the last syllable. The same goes for beauté, dialógue, etc.

value, follow - sometimes not fully articulated

wedlock < wed-lac

hlæfdige > lady

heafdige

In these cases, the timber in unaccented syllables has been retained.

wedlock → is an old compound, so the accent must have been on the 2nd syllable, too (then the accent on the 1st syllable becomes more prominent)

## The history of consonants

### OE consonants

*voiceless stops:*

<p> /p/

<t> /t/

<c> /k/: [k]

[c] > [t ]

[c] = [k, k] → the palatal voiceless plosive

pronounced with [k]: cann, cyssom

pronounced with [c] > [t ]: cinn, cied

*voiceless fricatives:*

<f> /f/: [f]

[v]

<þ> /b/: [0]

[ ]  
 <s> /s/: [s]  
 [z]  
 <h> /h/: [h] glottal  
 [x] velar  
 [ç] palatal

[v], [ ], [z] - pronounced only in completely voiced environment (between two vowels or between a vowel and a consonant)

n. sg. wulf [f], n. pl. wulf-as [v]

[h] glottal - in word-initial position: he, hus

[x] velar - in non-initial position, but only if preceded or followed by a back vowel: dah, pohte

[ç] palatal - in palatal environment (not in initial position - preceded or followed by a front vowel: niht

*voiced plosives:*

<b> /b/

<d> /d/

< > = <g> /g/: [g] voiced plosive

[ ] velar voiced fricative

[t] > [j]

[g] - in word-initial position if followed by a back vowel or if long: gan, frogga

[ ] - in velar environment: dagas, dohter

[j] - before or after front vowels: weg, ge, dæg

n. sg. dæg [j]

n. pl. dagas [ ]

*nasals:*

<m> > /m/

<n> > /n/: [n] here two allophones later became  
 [ ] two different phonemes

<w> /w/

<x> /ks/ [ks] weaxan

<sc> [sk] scol

[ ] before back vowels: sceap, scip

### The changes of the orthography (spelling system)

<p> 'thorn': [θ] <th> h - diacritic h  
 [ ]

<f> [f] → <f>  
 [v] → <v>

<c> [k]: <c>: [k\_] / [consonants, back vowels] can, cry  
 [s] - in French words: circle

[t ] <ch> - [t ] - in words of French and Anglo-Saxon origin: chin, cherry  
 <k>

OE <c> [k\_] y cyng, cyssan

<cing> \*[sing]

<h> [h] <h> - [h] > [θ]

[c]

< > → <gh> <ghoti>

[x]

< >: [g] → <g>

[j] → <i, j>

[ ] > [w] <w>

towards the end of the OE period

<sc> [ ] scip → <sch> → <sh>

### Changes in pronunciation

1. OE [ ] < > > ME w

OE dra an (draw) > ME draw(e(n > NE [dr :] draw

2. shortening of long consonants

OE full > ME [ful] > NE [f l] full

OE <c> [k] /\_ y

Latin: cappa > OE cæppe > ME cappe > NE [kæp] cap

Latin: cappa > Romance capa > ME cape > [keIp]

3. the voicing of voiceless fricatives in word-final position if followed by unaccented vowels

[+consonants + fricatives - voiced] → [+voiced] / °V\_#

OE stan-as > ME ston-es > NE [st n z]

with [wI ]

OE wip

OE of: - prep. °off > ME °[ v]

- adv. 'of > ME ['of] off

4. the loss of word-final -n

ME n > 0 /°V\_V

OE min > ME °mi(n > NE [°mI] my

used in all positions: min boc, min ie, pæt boc is min.

ME mi > NE ['maI] my

re-stressed form

Predicative use:

OE 'min > ME 'min > NE ['maɪn] mine

OE °an > ME °a(n > NE [ ] / \_ # [+ consonant]

NE [ n] / \_ # [+ vowel]

re-stressed forms:

ME a > NE [eɪ] a

ME 'an > NE ['æn] an

### Modern English

OE <h>: [h] > ME [h], 0 > NE [h]

[x] > ME [x] <gh>

[c] > ME [c] <gh>

ME [c] <gh> > NE 0

ME light > NE ['laɪt] light

ME [x] <gh> > NE 0

NE [f]

OE dah > ME dough > NE ['d ]

ME s > NE [ ] / 'V\_ j Russia, nation [nas'jon]

ME [z] > NE [ ] / 'V\_ j measure [meziur]

ME t > NE [t ] / 'V\_ j nature

ME d > NE [d ] / 'V\_ j soldier

NE j > 0 / {[ , , t , d ]}\_

liunar

crew

## **r**

NE r > 0 /\_{C, #} # [+ vowel] in the 17th century

- Later, it weakened to the point that it ceased to be in the 18th century.

- nowadays: British dialects → rhotic

→ non-rhotic (car<sub>r</sub>, carbon)

l disappeared as well, but not in all positions - only between a back vowel and a peripheral consonant (labials, velars).

NE l > 0 /V[+ back] \_C [peripheral]

talk, calf, Holmes

## **/b, d, g/**

Voiced stops in word-final positions stopped being pronounced if they were preceded by a nasal.

## **g**

NE [ng] > [n]/\_# > [n]

[g] > 0/ [+ nasal] \_#

In some dialects, it changed back to [n]:

talkin' but [sin] and [sin] because this pair is in phonemic apposition

In the middle of the word, g was pronounced (angry, England, anguish), it disappeared only at the end. But in some derivatives, g is not supposed to be pronounced: longer, singing.

**b** is also not pronounced at the end of the word if preceded by m. In derived words, b is silent as well.

NE b > 0 /m\_#

comb, climb

**d** is pronounced in find, and. There are sporadic cases: rock'n'roll.

? When did knight and night become homonyms?

In ME, when k was in initial position, followed by a nasal.

At the beginning of the word:

**k**

NE [k] > 0 /#\_ [+ nasal] knight, knee

NE [g] > 0 /#\_ [+ nasal] - in initial position if followed by a nasal gnaw

**w**

w > 0 /#\_r wrong, wrestling

**wh** <wh>: [h] which, witch - homonyms

[w]

Indo-European:

IE \*k<sup>u</sup> > Germ. \*x<sup>u</sup> > OE [xw] hwæt - what

hwa - who

<hw> → <wh> changed h used as a diacritic symbol not because of the pronunciation

OE [xw] <hw> > ME: [w] > NE [w, w]

[h] > NE [h]/\_ [u]

Most probably, h was preferred in North and South dialects. In all cases, it remained voiceless or changes to w, except when followed by u.

### **The phenomenon of spelling pronunciation**

(is changed under the influence of spelling)

ME nevéu > NE [nevju:]

nephew [nefju:] because of the influence of the spelling

fault

ME faut (French) > [ˈf :t] fault also [ˈf :lt]

but I was restored in spelling because of Latin  
faltas

often:

forehead [ˈf rɪd]

waistcoat [ˈweskɪt]

Izroček:

1.

OE

Fæder ure, þu þe eart on heofonum, si þin nama gehalgod.

ME

Oure fadir þat art in heuenes, halwid be þi name;

NE

Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

ME:

- þat → introductory word to the relative clause; corresponding to [that]  
(demonstratives started to be used as relative pronouns)

→ the pronoun disappears

- heuenes (in between vowels)

OE → heofonum

dative plural ending

used when location is implied

vs. heuenes (ME)

the common case from ME

on, prepositions are used with

the common case

halwid be þi name

instead of si

NE: instead of [pɑt] we have which

### **Pronunciation**

OE fæder > ME fadir > NE [fa: ] father

OE æ > ME a (regular sound change)

OE æ > ME [ ] (i pronounced as [ ])

ME fader > NE dialect [ˈfeɪ ]

[ˈf ]

[ˈf : ]

ME fader > father

the lengthened [a] must have coexisted for some time with short [a]

ME a > NE [a:]/\_ [+ fricative - voiced] pass, can't

but also \_ [ ] father, rather

OE ure > ME our(e > NE [a ] our

OE eart > ME art > NE [a:t] art

NE are > ME °ar(e)n

OE heofonum > ME heuenes > NE [hev nz]

OE eo > ME e regular change

Nominative plural form heofonas!

!! unaccented vowels change to [ ]!!

The standard language today is a sociolect. Whenever somebody learns to speak RP English, s/he belongs to some social stratum.

### **Changes in English RP**

## 1. Consonants

- a) Stops /p, t, k/ can be omitted in word final position (in London) - they're replaced by the glottal stop.  
e.g. get down ['ge da n], back garden [bæ 'ga:d n]
- b) [h] dropping → sometimes in initial unaccented position; e.g. stop him ['st p Im]
- c) intrusive /r/; e.g. vanilla ice-cream [v nIl r aIskri:m], law and order ['l :r n :d ]
- d) [ ] > [ ] higher classes  
approximant flap  
(normal /r/)
- e) dark // vocalised → it becomes similar to a vowel; e.g. milk ['mIök], well ['weö]
- f) -ing [In] > [In]; younger speakers pronounce it [In] again
- g) [w] is lost in combinations kw [w] > 0/k\_  
[j] can also be dropped; e.g. suit ['sju:t] or ['su:t]; lute ['lju:t] or ['lu:t]

whatuyou [d ] → j and t merged (but it's not considered to be refined English)

## 2. Vowels

- a) [I] sometimes in unaccented position, it tends to become [ ]: believe [I] or [ ]; manage [I] or [ ], visibility [I] or [ ]
- b) bed [e], bad [æ] → younger people pronounce both of them a little more open, lower
- c) [ ] cup → many variants of pronouncing this word
- d) off [' f] → some speakers still prefer [' :f]
- e) how to determine whether <oo> is pronounced [u:] or [ ]; room [u:], but younger speakers already pronounce it [ ]; also: voiceless plosives affect the length of the long vowel: bead vs. beat /i:/ in beat is shorter
- f) [I ] here → not many variations, sometimes / / is more open

[ ] bear > [ :]

[ ] more > [ :]

[ ] poor, sure > [ :]

air [ :]

heir [ ] → this one is preserved

['baɪ ] buyer

['ba ] bower

[ba:] bar

They are becoming homonyms (similar with tyre, tower, tar).

Izroček:

OE nama > ME noun(e > NE ['neɪn]

OE gehalgod > ME halwid > NE [hæl d] hallowed

The prefix ge- became y but it was quickly gone.

OE To-becume pin rice. → the subjunctive form

ME pi reume or kyngdom come to be.

NE Thy kingdom come. - subjunctive form is still preserved

OE Gewurpe

OE willa > ME wille > NE ['wɪl]

OE on eor an > ME erthe > NE [3:0]

OE swa swa (so so)

OE gedon > ME (y)don > NE dun > dun > [d n]

In Wyclif's text, the spelling is <down>

Wyclif's text: herthe - a mistake, because h wasn't pronounced

## NON-RP ACCENTS

southern accents ≠ northern accents

Vowels:

1. [ ] : [ ]

ME u > NE [ ] only in Southern England, Welsh, Scottish, Irish  
16th century

2. book, look, cook

[ ] Scottish, Northern Irish: no contrast between fuel and fool

3. [æ] : [a:]

grass, dance, can't, demand, example

ME a > NE [æ]

gate [eɪ]

boat [ ]

The more you go to the south, the wider the diphthong.

Consonants:

1. post vocalic /r/

In Scottish, Irish and American accents, /r/ is pronounced. /r/ is dying out.

ME eu, iu > NE [ju:] → [u:] few, music

him, he: /h/ is not pronounced when in non-accented syllable

a *glottal stop* instead of /t/: in word final position if the next word starts with a consonant

that man

*syllabic n*: button/\_[n]

*syllabic l*: bottle/\_[l]

OE [ ] <a, o>

mann, monn

**Izroček:**

OE pu > ME thou > NE [ a ] thou

OE eart > ME art > NE [a:t] art

ME °ar > NE are [a:] < ME ar(e)n

ain't < amn't          si - subjunctive form of the verb be

OE pin > ME °thi(n > NE [° I]

'thi > NE [ aI] thy

OE nama > ME nam(e > NE [neIm]

OE gehalgod > ME (y)holwed

holwid \*[h lu]

NE [hæI d] hallowed

blood, book - in ME both contained o

ME o <oo> > NE [u:]

urne gedæghwalican hlaf

lic - added to nouns to make adjectives (as fatherlike - fatherly)

e - added to make an adverb

today -ly - both for adjectives and adverbs

sylle - imperative of sellan - to give

When g is pronounced as g, it implies that it is of Scandinavian origin (forgive).

yfel > evil (of Kentish origin)

fox (Midlands) vs. vixen (Kentish)