

History of English

English is a member of the Indo-European family of languages, which has several major branches: Latin, Indo-Iranian, Slavic, Baltic, Greek, Celtic, Germanic

Classification	Date	Influences	Traits	Events
Proto-Indo European			- Root of the Indo-European family of languages	
Old English	500-1100	West-Germanic North-Germanic Native languages (Celtic, Gaelic) Latin	- Similar words as German - Strange letters - Declensions - Syntactical order different from Mod E - Incomplete pronoun system - 15% of mod words form OE (50% of most frequent words)	450 West Germanic invaders: Angles, Saxons, and Jutes 790 Viking (North Germanic) invasion
Middle English	1100-1500	Norman Old French Old English	- less inflections - many words with latin roots - mix of OF(upper class) with OE(lower class) by replacement, combination, coexistence - Start of great vowel shift	1066 Norman conquest 1388 Chaucer's Canterbury Tales 1474 Printing Press
Early Modern English	1500-1800	Latin, Greek (renaissance)	- Great vowel shift - London Variety becomes standard English - Elizabethan English (Shakespeare) - Few grammatical changes - American English	1564 Shakespeare born
Late Modern English	1800-Present	All languages	- Vocabulary (scientific, colonial, military, economical,...)	
American English	1700-Present	All languages	- Simplifications in spelling, grammar, and pronunciation, different development than BE	1776 American Declaration of Independence