Languages – (7);  **History of English language**

[English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) is a [West Germanic language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Germanic_languages).

The majority of the population spoke the Celtic languages. The former Roman rulers spoke Latin. Roman rule ended in 410 AD, Latin ceased to be a major influence on the Celtic languages spoken by the majority of the population.

The Germanic settlers in the British Isles spoke a number of different dialects at first. These settlers culturally dominated southern Great Britain until the 7th century. These dialects were brought to Britain in the mid 5th to 7th centuries AD and they developed into a language that came to be called Anglo-Saxon, or [**Old English**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English)**.**

Another significant influence on the shaping of Old English came from contact with the [North Germanic languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Germanic_languages) spoken by the [Scandinavian Vikings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_invasions_of_England). They conquered and colonized parts of Britain during the 8th and 9th centuries, which led to much lexical borrowing and grammatical simplification.

After the [Norman conquest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_conquest) in 1066, Old English was replaced, for a time, as the language of the upper classes by [Anglo-Norman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Norman_language), a [relative of French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langues_d%27o%C3%AFl). This is considered the Old English or Anglo-Saxon era.

The English language was heavily influenced by Anglo-Norman, developing into a phase known now as [**Middle English**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_English). The conquering Normans spoke a [Romance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romantic_languages) [langue d'oïl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langue_d%27o%C3%AFl) called [Old Norman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Norman), which in Britain developed into Anglo-Norman.

Many Norman and French loanwords entered the local language in this period, especially in vocabulary related to the church, the court system and the government. Middle English was spoken to the late 15th century.

[**Early Modern English**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Modern_English) – the language used by [Shakespeare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakespeare) – is dated from around 1500. It incorporated many [Renaissance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaissance)-era loans from [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) and [Ancient Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek), as well as borrowings from other European languages, including French, [German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language)  and [Dutch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_language).

[**Modern English**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_English) proper, similar in most respects to that spoken today, was in place by the late 17th century. The English language came to be exported to other parts of the world through [British colonisation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire), and is now the dominant language in Britain and [Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland), the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) and [Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada), [Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia), [New Zealand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand) and many smaller former colonies, as well as being widely spoken in [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), parts of [Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa), and elsewhere. Partially due to United States influence, English gradually took on the status of a global [lingua franca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingua_franca) in the second half of the 20th century. This is especially true in Europe, where English has largely taken over the former roles of French and (much earlier) Latin as a common language used to conduct business and diplomacy, share scientific and technological information, and otherwise communicate across national boundaries. The efforts of English-speaking Christian missionaries have resulted in English becoming a second language for many other groups. Global variation among different [English dialects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_dialects) and [accents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_accents) remains significant today.

A **language family** is a group of [languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language) related through [descent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_(linguistics)) (původ, rodová linie, rodokmen) from a common *ancestral language* or *parental language*, called the [proto-language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-language) (prajazyk) of that family.

A proto-language = mother language or parental language or ancestral language (prajazyk)

Daughter languages

Proto-Germanic is a proto-language of the Germanic branch/family; the source of all Germanic languages - pragermánština nebo starogermánština – germánské jazyka; praslovanština – slovanské jazyky; pračeština – čeština)

The term "family" reflects the [tree model](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_model) of language origination in [historical linguistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_linguistics), which makes use of a metaphor comparing languages to people in a biological [family tree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_tree).

Proto-Indo-European … Indo-European languages

**British and American English**

Grammar: I haven´t got x I do not have; I shall do it x I will do it

Tendency to use the past simple instead of the present perfect in American English: it is shorter *I did it.* X I *have done it.*

Irregular verbs: learn – learnt - learnt x learn - learned - learned

dream – dreamt – dreamt x dream – dreamed - dreamed

burn - burned - burned x burn – burnt - burnt

Lexis: sidewalk, biscuit, queue, pavement, line, cookie, pants, trousers, autumn x fall, holiday x vacation,

flat x apartment, city centre x downtown

Usage of prepositions: on the street x in the street

Usage of articles: (AmE *to the hospital*, BrE *to hospital)*

Spelling: centre, center,

Simplification in American English: doughnut x donut

colour x color; flavour x flavor

analyze x analyse; legalize x legalise

catalogue x catalog; dialog x dialogue

traveling x travelling

Pronunciation: /r/ car, far, bird, work

/o/ x /a/ hot, spot, god either: /ˈi:ðər/ x  /ˈaɪðə(r)/ tomato /təˈmɑːtəʊ $ -ˈmeɪtoʊ/

**DIALECTS**

A **dialect** is a particular form of a language which is used only in a specific region or by a specific social group.

A Cockney is someone [born](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/born) in the East End (=[eastern](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/eastern) [central](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/central) part) of London, [especially](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/especially) a [working](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/working)-[class](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/class_1) [person](https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/person).

The term Cockney also refers to the way Cockneys speak, their pronunciation, their accent, their dialect. It is traditionally spoken by working-class Londoners.

*Typical features:*

 A final *-er* is pronounced [[ə](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid_central_vowel)]  LETTER, SWEATER

/θ/ can become [[f](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voiceless_labiodental_fricative)] in any environment. [fɪn] "thin", [mɛfs] "maths

ð/ can become [[v](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voiced_labiodental_fricative)] in any environment except word-initially:  [ˈbɒvə] "bother"

H-dropping

Grammatical features: Use of *me* instead of *my*, for example, “me book“ - “my book“

Use of *[ain't](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ain%27t" \o "Ain't)*

Use of [double negatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_negatives), for example "I didn't see nuffink"

Cockney speakers also occasionally use [rhyming slang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhyming_slang).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Slang Word** | **Meaning** | **Original Phrase** |
| dog | telephone | dog-and-bone |
| plates | feet | plates-of-meat |
| frog | road | frog-and-toad |
| apples | stairs | apples-and-pears |

It uses borrowings from [Yiddish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yiddish), as well as [Romany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_language), for example *wonga* (meaning *money*, from the Romany "wanga" meaning coal),[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockney" \l "cite_note-43) and *cushdy*  /ˈkʊʃdiː/ (meaning *very good or satisfactory*, from the Romany *kushtipen*, meaning good).

**DISCUSS:** How can you improve your language skills? (reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills)

How can you improve your pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary?

How do you learn new words and expressions? How do you learn and practice new grammar? Which other foreign languages do you speak? What motivates you to study foreign languages?