

A Brief History of

உருசிஷ்அ

Sample text from *Macbeth*

MACBETH So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

BANQUO How far is't call'd to Forres? What are these
So wither'd and so wild in their attire,
That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at once her chappy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips: you should be women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

Sample text in Old English (Prologue from *Beowulf*)

hwæt! þe Gardena in geardagum,
þeodcýninga, þrym gefrunon,
hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.
Oft Scýld Scefing sceapena þreatum,

monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,
egsode eorlas. Syððan ærest wearð
feasceaft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,
weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,
oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra

ofer hronrade hyran scolde,
gomban gýldan.

Hwæt! We Gardena in geardagum,
þeodcýninga, þrym gefrunon,
hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.
Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena þreatum,

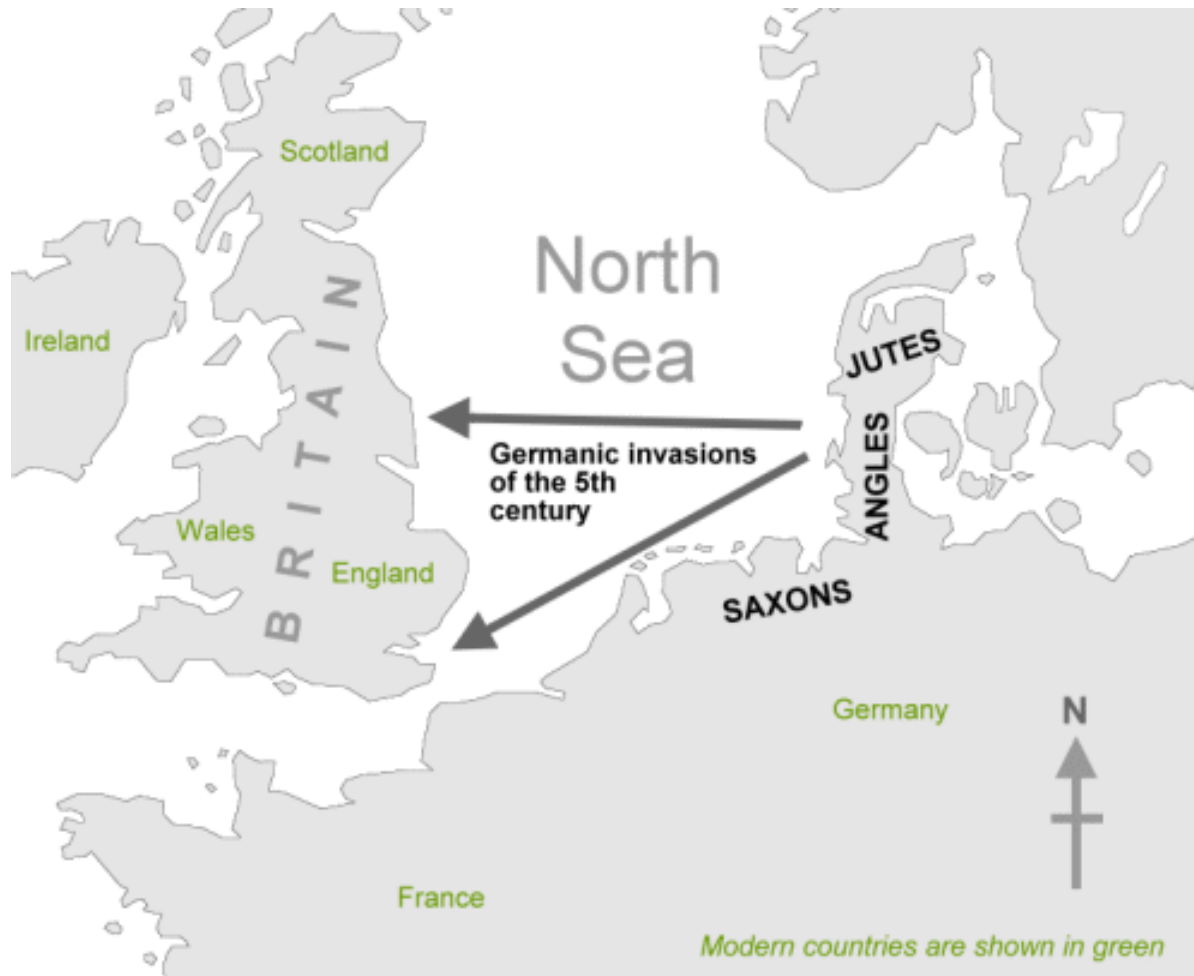
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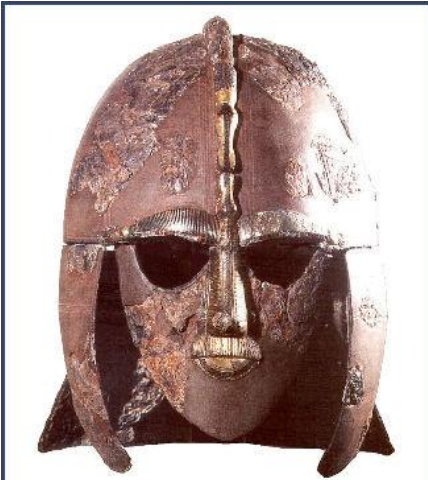
Sample Middle English text from *The Canterbury Tales* (Miller's Tale)

Whilom ther was dwellynge at oxenford
A riche gnof, that gestes heeld to bord,
And of his craft he was a carpenter.
With hym ther was dwellynge a poure scoler,
Hadde lerned art, but al his fantasye
Was turned for to lerne astrologye,
And koude a certeyn of conclusiouns,
To demen by interrogaciouns,
If that men asked hym in certein houres
Whan that men sholde have droghte or elles shoures,
Or if men asked hym what sholde bifalle
Of every thyng; I may nat rekene hem alle.

5th Century A.D.



~ 450-1100: Anglo-Saxon Period (Old English)



Helmet from the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial

HWÆT PE GARD
na in 7 ear dazum. heod cynnigal
þrym 7e framon huda æþelungas elles
fre medon. oft se yld sceapung sceapen
þreatum monegū mæspum meodo secla
of tealh esode eorl syddan aqere þe
feal sceapz runden he þes

1066: William the Conqueror Invades



Geoffrey Chaucer (~ 1340-1400)



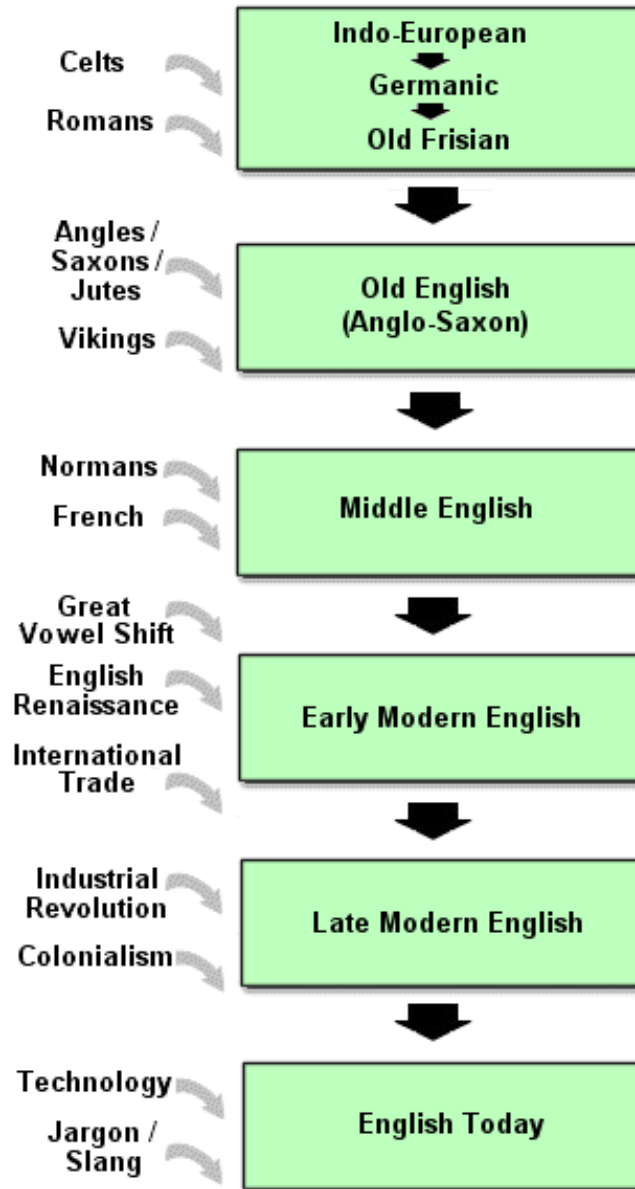
Modern English (~ 1500-Present)



William Caxton



Johann Gutenberg

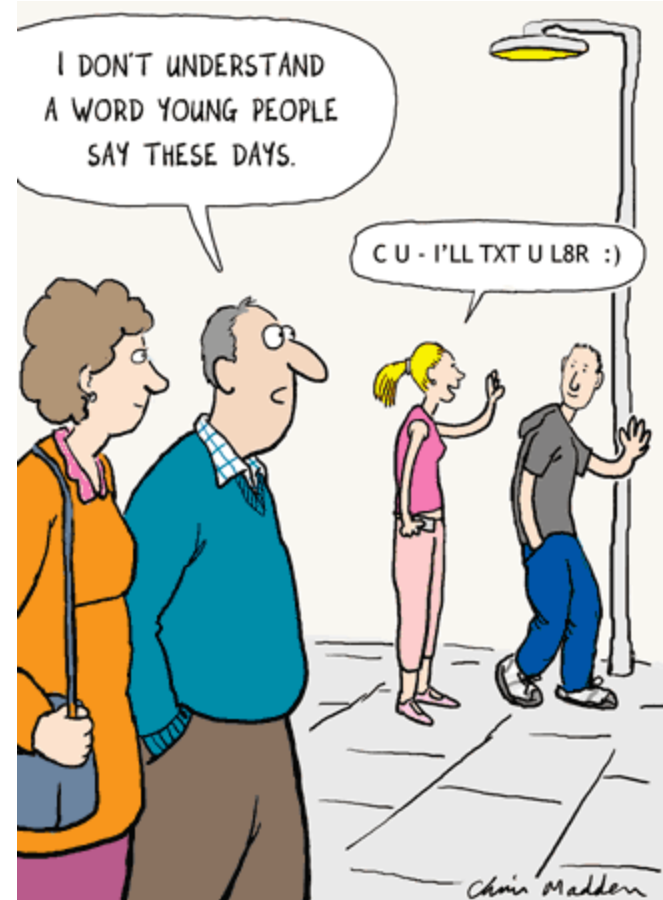


History of the English Language

- Old English (450-1100 AD)
- Middle English (1100-1500)
- Early Modern English (1500-1800)
- Late Modern English (1800-Present)
- And then?

Postmodern English?

- [Urban Dictionary](#)
- [Text Message Abbreviations](#)



*Linguarum diversitas hominem alienat ab
homine*

-St. Augustine, *City of God*

(the diversity of language alienates man from
man)