



A Short History of English

Understanding the World's
Most Successful language

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English:
An enormous
field of study!



- As Language
 - Reading, Writing, Speaking at all levels
- As a History Topic
- As a Linguistics Topic
- As a University Degree
- As a Modern Global Phenomena

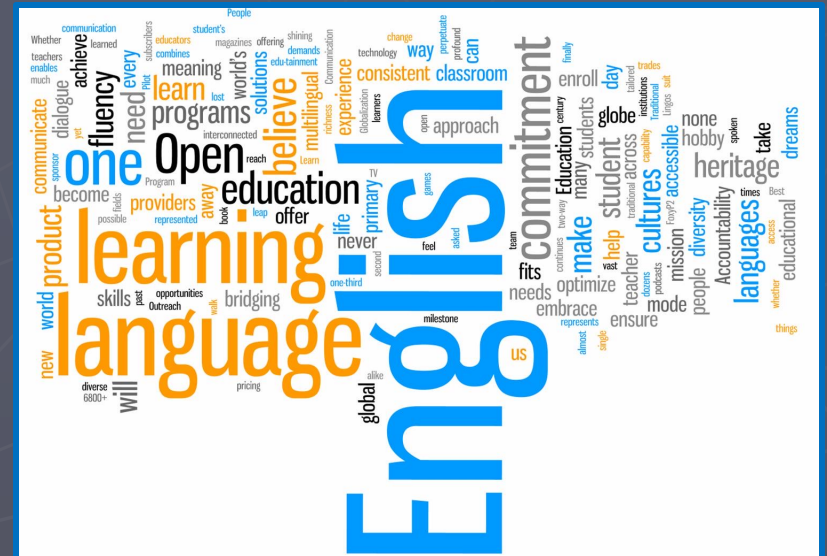


Is English Important?

- ▶ International communication
- ▶ Intercultural communication and understanding
- ▶ Global exchange of information
- ▶ International education and study abroad
- ▶ Advanced education and graduate studies
- ▶ Language of science and medicine
 - Language of academia
- ▶ Stock exchange
- ▶ Hospitality and tourism
- ▶ Language of business
 - Accounting
- ▶ International music
- ▶ International movies
- ▶ Internet
- ▶ For education in daily life
- ▶ Employment

“The limits of your language are the limits of your world”

(*Historia de Sevilla*,
Salamanca
University, fifteenth
century)



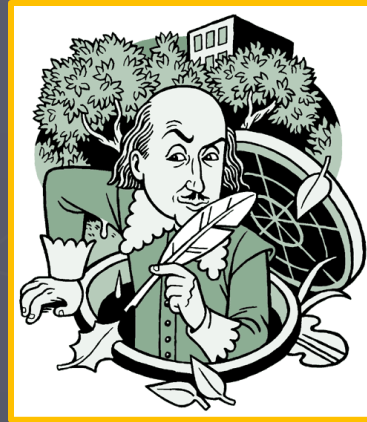
Careers with an English Degree

TEACHING Schools Colleges Universities Research Teaching Abroad EFL & ESL	MEDIA Journalism Publishing TV & Radio Events	MARKETING Advertising Public Relations Sales Retail
SOCIAL Social work Youth work Nursing Housing	WHAT ELSE?	PROFESSIONS Law Human Resource Banking Accountancy Insurance
INFORMATION Internet Librarianship Archives Publishing	PUBLIC SECTOR Administration Civil service Health service Government Police Military	POSTGRADUATE International programs MA MBA Computer science Linguistics Humanities

Why is English Successful?

English developed into a
“**borrowing**” language

It absorbs words from other
languages!



- Great flexibility
- Enormous vocabulary
- Varied vocabulary

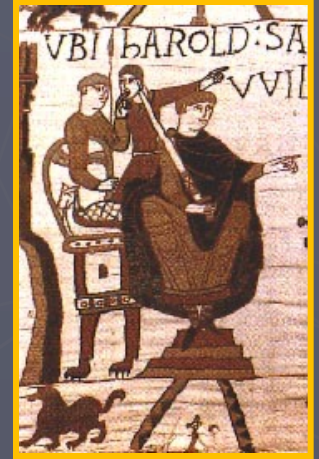
► Colonialism อานานิคม

- America
- Australia
- New Zealand
- India
- South Africa

Other reasons include...

- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

English is a “Melting Pot” of Indo-European Languages



Benthonic

The Celts

400 BC (+-) to
55 BC

Latin

The Romans

55 BC
to 410 AD

German

Anglo-Saxon-Jute

410 AD
to 1066 AD

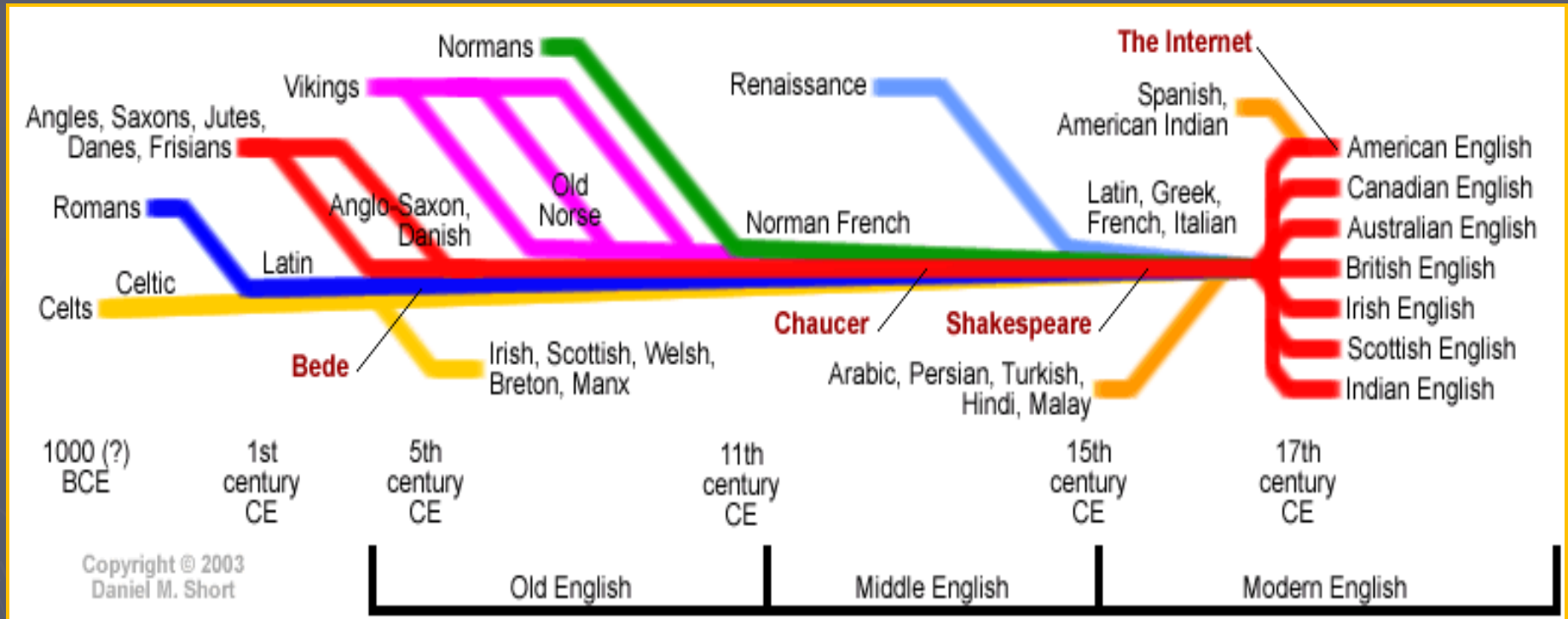
French

The

Normans

1066 AD
to 1485 AD

English Language Tree



- The Celts [Kelts] – Mainly place names
 - Benthonic (the pre-Roman British)
- English is a “Low German” language (Englisc)
 - Anglo-Saxon-Jute were comparable
 - Related to old Dutch and Flemish
- The Vikings (Old Norse) introduced a lot of place names
- 300 years of French-speaking upper class (The Normans)
- + a long history of borrowings from Greek and Latin



<p>400-1066</p> <p>Nearly impossible to understand today!</p>	<p>Old English (OE)</p>	<p>Beowulf (an epic poem) kenning, a formulaic phrase that describes one thing in terms of another</p>	<p>"Gaæp a wyrd swa hio scel" (OE) = "Fate goes ever as it must" (MnE)</p> <p>→ the sea = the whale's road</p>
<p>1066-1485</p>	<p>Middle English (ME)</p>	<p>Chaucer 1343-1400</p>	<p>"Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote . . ." (ME) = "When that April with its sweet showers . . ." (MnE)</p>
<p>1485-1800</p>	<p>Early Modern English (EMnE)</p>	<p>William Shakespeare c. 1564-1616</p>	<p>"Sir, I loue you more than words can weild ye matter" (EMnE) = "Sir, I love you more than words can wield the matter" (MnE)</p>
<p>1800-present</p>	<p>Modern English (MnE)</p>	<p>Jane Austen 1775-1817</p>	<p>"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." (MnE)</p>

British English


(Known as Standard English or Oxford English)

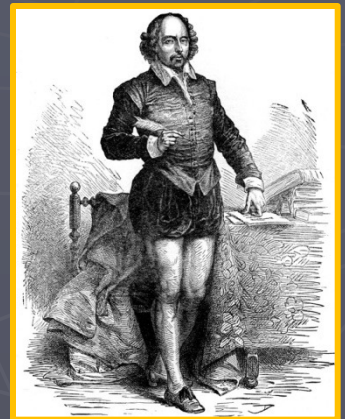
Underwent changes with the development of the United States

-- Resulted in **American English**

- *centre* to *center*
- *metre* to *meter*
- *theatre* to *theater*
- *favour* to *favor*
- *honour* to *honor*
- *labour* to *labor*
- *neighbour* to *neighbor*
- *cheque* to *check*
- *connexion* to *connection*
- *gaol* to *jail*
- *storey* of a house to *story*
- *tyre* for *tire*

Concluding Thoughts: Some Periods to Consider

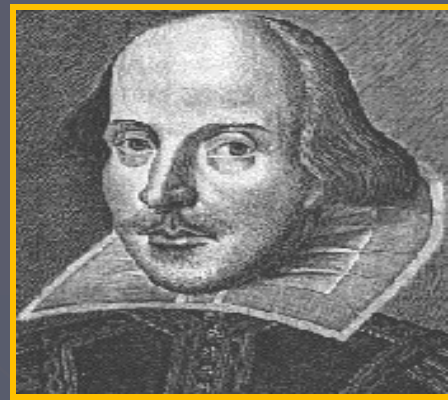
- Old England [the Celts] 400 BC (+-) to 55 BC
- Roman Influence [early Latin] 55 BC to 410 AD
- Germanic Influences [Anglo Saxons] 410 AD to 1066 AD
- French Influences [the Normans] 1066 AD to 1485 AD
 - 1350 – *Edward the 3rd* could not speak English
 - 1413 – *Henry the 5th* made an address in English and forged it as an aristocratic language
- Shakespeare (Circa 1564 — Died 1616) 
- Colonization (16th Century +)
- American English (18th Century +)
- Globalization



Concluding Thoughts

**Modern English is composed of
several languages**

Grammar rules, spelling, and word usage
compliment and compete for clarity



- A field of study
- Difficult to master
- Beautiful to hear
- Enlightening to read
- Limitless in expression

ASSIGNMENT...

The History of English: Many Cultures, Many Contributions

Please Read the Story and
Complete the Worksheet....

