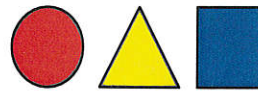


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REVIEW



- Things that are **different** are **NOT** the **same**.
- God promised to **preserve** His **WORDS** – and God **cannot** lie. Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:17-18
- The Bible issue really comes down to a tale of two cities – **Antioch** vs. Alexandria, Egypt.
- The Bible testifies it is preserved as a **copy** – if God was not able to preserve His **actual words in English**, our faith would have to stand in the wisdom of men!

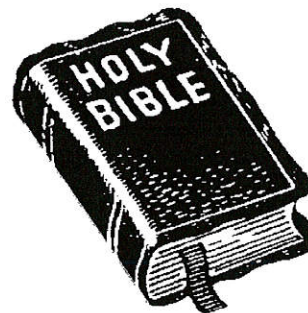
WEEK 10. The History of the English Language

Consider this – Which had a greater influence on the other...the English language on the Holy Bible or the Holy Bible on the English language?



English Language

OR

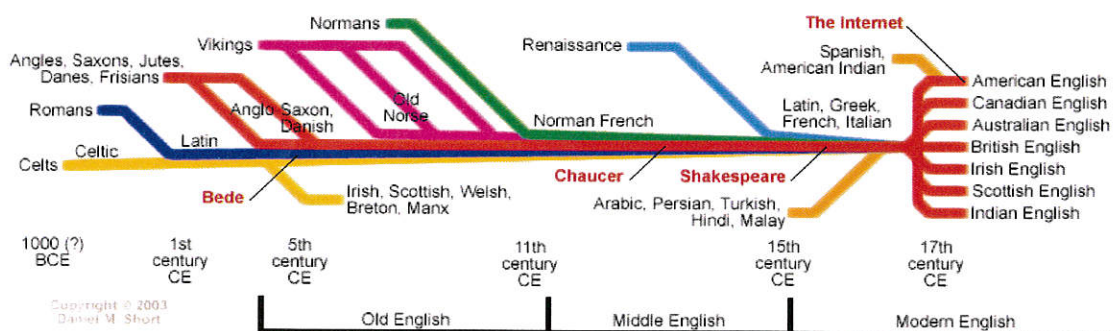


Holy Bible in English

History of the English Language

The figure below shows the timeline of the history of the English language. The earliest known residents of the British Isles were the Celts, who spoke Celtic languages—a separate branch of the Indo-European language family tree. Over the centuries the British Isles were invaded and conquered by various peoples, who brought their languages and customs with them as they settled in their new lives. There is now very little Celtic influence left in English. The earliest time when we can say that English was spoken was in the 5th century CE (Common Era—a politically correct term used to replace AD).

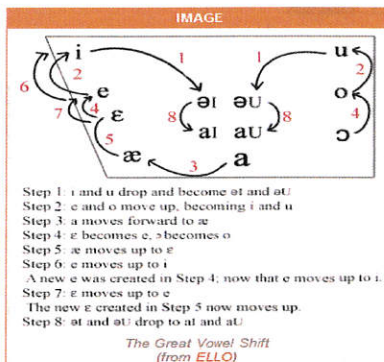
In case you hadn't made the connection, "England" ← "Engla Land" ← "Angle Land" (Land of the Angles, a people of northern old Germany). Their name lives on in the district of England named East Anglia, and also in the Anglican Church. In the present day there is still a region of Germany known as *Angeln*, which is likely the same area from which the original Angles came. Angeln lies in Schleswig-Holstein on the eastern side of the Jutland peninsula near the cities of Flensburg and Schleswig. — [Google map](#)



<http://www.thehistoryofenglish.com/>

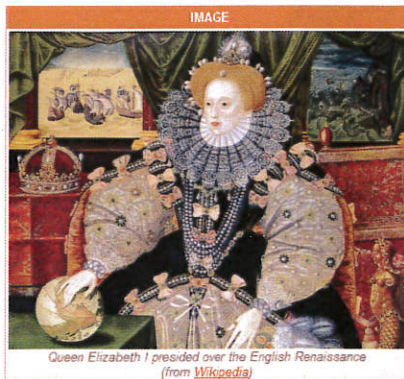
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The Great Vowel Shift



A major factor separating Middle English from Modern English is known as **the Great Vowel Shift, a radical change in pronunciation during the 15th, 16th and 17th Century**, as a result of which long vowel sounds began to be made higher and further forward in the mouth (short vowel sounds were largely unchanged). In fact, the shift probably started very gradually some centuries before 1400, and continued long after 1700 (some subtle changes arguably continue even to this day). Many languages have undergone vowel shifts, but the major changes of the English vowel shift occurred within the relatively short space of a century or two, quite a sudden and dramatic shift in linguistic terms. It was largely during this short period of time that English lost the purer vowel sounds of most European languages, as well as the phonetic pairing between long and short vowel sounds.

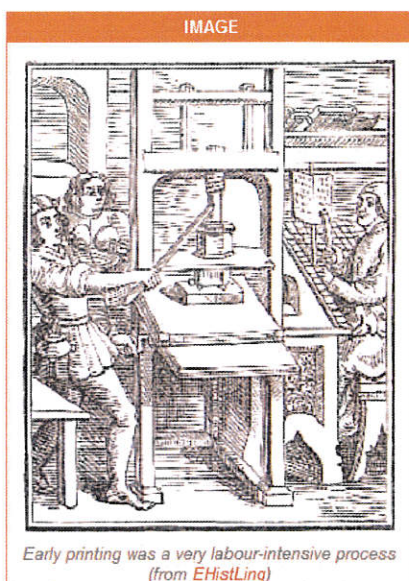
The English Renaissance



The next wave of innovation in English vocabulary came with **the revival of classical scholarship known as the Renaissance**. The English Renaissance roughly covers the 16th and early 17th Century (the European Renaissance had begun in Italy as early as the 14th Century), and is often referred to as the "Elizabethan Era" or the "Age of Shakespeare" after the most important monarch and most famous writer of the period. The additions to English vocabulary during this period were deliberate borrowings, and not the result of any invasion or influx of new nationalities or any top-down decrees.

Latin (and to a lesser extent Greek) was still very much considered the language of education and scholarship at this time, and the great enthusiasm for the classical languages during the English Renaissance brought thousands of new words into the language, **peaking around 1600**. A huge number of classical works were being translated into English during the 16th Century, and many new terms were introduced where a satisfactory English equivalent did not exist.

Printing Press and Standardization



The final major factor in the development of Modern English was the advent of the printing press, **one of the world's great technological innovations**, introduced into England by William Caxton in 1476 ([Johann Gutenberg had originally invented the printing press in Germany around 1450](#)).

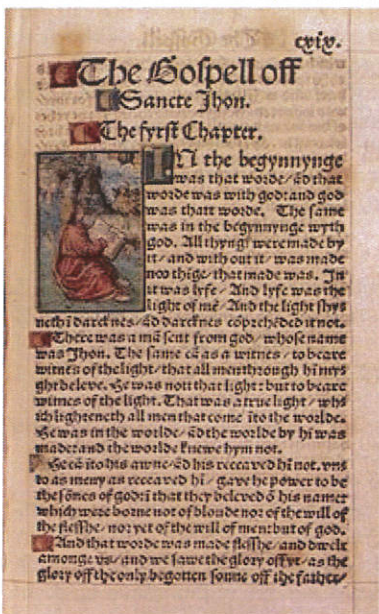
As mass-produced books became cheaper and more commonly available, literacy mushroomed, and soon works in English became even more popular than books in Latin. At the time of the introduction of printing, there were five major dialect divisions within England - Northern, West Midlands, East Midlands (a region which extended down to include London), Southern and Kentish - and even within these demarcations, there was a huge variety of different spellings. For example, the word *church* could be spelled in 30 different ways, *people* in 22, *receive* in 45, *she* in 60 and *though* in an almost unbelievable 500 variations.

Some of the decisions made by the early publishers had long-lasting repercussions for the language. A good part of the reason for many of the vagaries and inconsistencies of English spelling has been attributed to the fact that **words were fixed on the printed page before any orthographic consensus had emerged among teachers and writers.**

Standardization was well under way by around 1650...

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The Bible



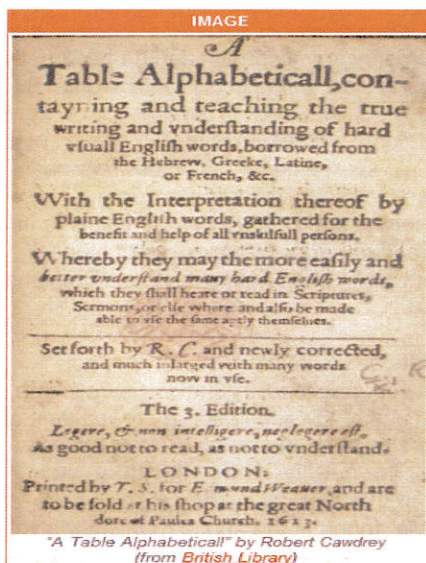
The beginning of the Gospel of John from a copy of the 1526 edition of William Tyndale's New Testament at the British Library.

Two particularly influential milestones in English literature were published in the 16th and early 17th Century. In 1549, the "Book of Common Prayer" (a translation of the Church liturgy in English, substantially revised in 1662) was introduced into English churches, followed in 1611 by the Authorized, or King James, Version of "The Bible", the culmination of more than two centuries of efforts to produce a Bible in the native language of the people of England.

John Wycliffe had made the first English translation of "The Bible" as early as 1384. But, in 1526, William Tyndale printed his New Testament, which he had translated directly from the original Greek and Hebrew. Tyndale printed his "Bible" in secrecy in Germany, and smuggled them into his homeland, for which he was hounded down, found guilty of heresy and executed in 1536. By the time of his death he had only completed part of the Old Testament, but others carried on his labours.

Tyndale's "Bible" was much clearer and more poetic than Wycliffe's early version. In addition to completely new English words like *fisherman*, *landlady*, *scapegoat*, *taskmaster*, *viper*, *sea-shore*, *zealous*, *beautiful*, *clear-eyed*, *broken-hearted* and many others, it includes many of the well-known phrases later used in the King James Version, such as *let there be light*, *my brother's keeper*, *the powers that be*, *fight the good fight*, *the apple of mine eye*, *flowing with milk and honey*, *the fat of the land*, *am I my brother's keeper?*, *sign of the times*, *ye of little faith*, *eat drink and be merry*, *salt of the earth*, *a man after his own heart*, *sick unto death*, *the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak*, *a stranger in a strange land*, *let my people go*, *a law unto themselves*, etc.

Dictionaries and Grammars



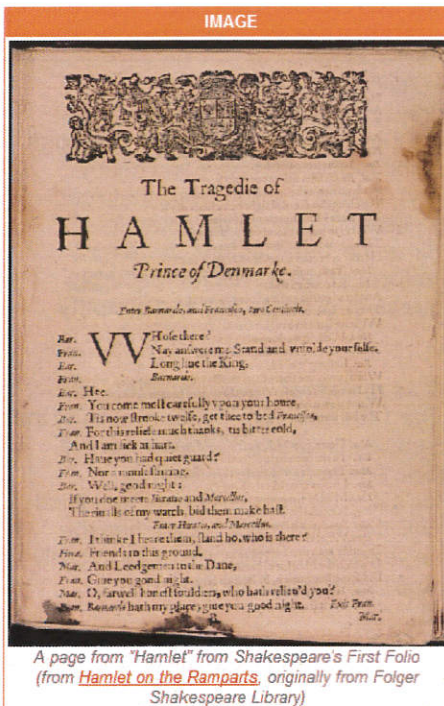
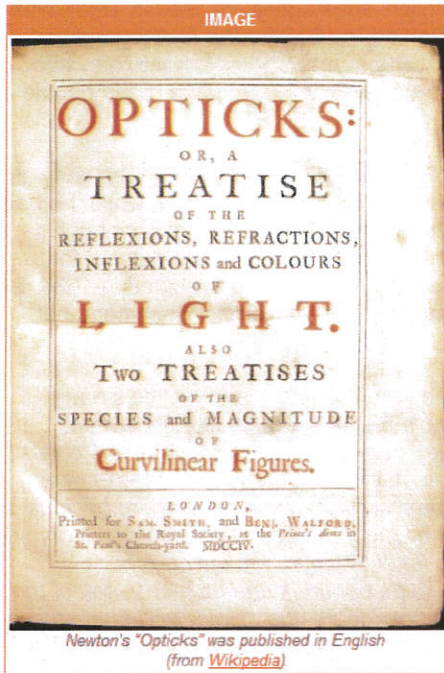
The first English dictionary, "A Table Alphabeticall", was published by English schoolteacher Robert Cawdrey in 1604 (8 years before the first Italian dictionary, and 35 years before the first French dictionary, although admittedly some 800 years after the first Arabic dictionary and nearly 1,000 after the first Sanskrit dictionary). Cawdrey's little book contained 2,543 of what he called "hard words", especially those borrowed from Hebrew, Greek, Latin and French. Since the 16th Century, there had been calls for the regulation and reform of what was increasingly seen as an unwieldy English language in order to aid and simplify spelling.

Several other dictionaries, as well as grammar, pronunciation and spelling guides, followed during the 17th and 18th Century. One of the first to be considered reliable was Samuel Johnson's "Dictionary of the English Language", published in 1755. An impressive academic achievement in its own right, Johnson's 43,000 word dictionary remained the pre-eminent English dictionary until the much more comprehensive "Oxford English Dictionary" 150 more years later, although it was actually riddled with inconsistencies in both spelling and definitions.

In the wake of Johnson's "Dictionary", a plethora of other dictionaries appeared, peaking in the period between 1840 and 1860, as well as many specialized dictionaries and glossaries.

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Golden Age of English Literature



All languages tend to go through phases of intense generative activity, during which many new words are added to the language. **One such peak for the English language was the Early Modern period of the 16th to 18th Century, a period sometimes referred to as the Golden Age of English Literature** (other peaks include the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and early 19th Century, and the computer and digital age of the late 20th Century, which is still continuing today). **Between 1500 and 1650, an estimated 10,000-12,000 new words were coined, about half of which are still in use today.**

Up until the 17th Century, English was rarely used for scholarly or scientific works, as it was not considered to possess the precision or the *gravitas* of Latin or French. Thomas More, **Isaac Newton**, William Harvey and many other English scholars all wrote their works in Latin and, even in the 18th Century, Edward Gibbon wrote his major works in French, and only then translated them into English. Sir Francis Bacon, however, hedged his bets and wrote many of his works in both Latin and English and, taking his inspiration mainly from Greek, coined several scientific words such as *thermometer*, *pneumonia*, *skeleton* and *encyclopaedia*. **In 1704, Newton, having written in Latin until that time, chose to write his "Opticks" in English**, introducing in the process such words as *lens*, *refraction*, etc. Over time, the rise of nationalism led to the increased use of the native spoken language rather than Latin, even as the medium of intellectual communication.

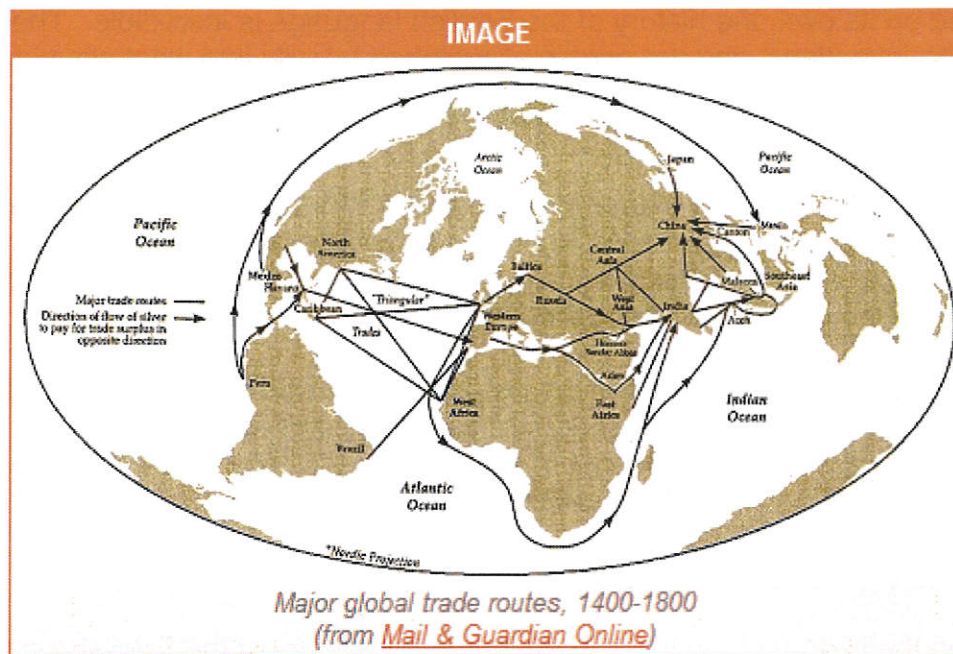
Whatever the merits of the other contributions to this golden age, though, it is clear that one man, William Shakespeare, **single-handedly changed the English language to a significant extent in the late 16th and early 17th Century**. Shakespeare took advantage of the relative freedom and flexibility and the protean nature of English at the time, and played free and easy with the already liberal grammatical rules, for example in his use nouns as verbs, adverbs, adjectives and substantives.

He had a vast vocabulary (34,000 words by some counts) and he personally coined an estimated 2,000 neologisms or new words in his many works. By some counts, **almost one in ten of the words used by Shakespeare were his own invention**, a truly remarkable achievement (it is the equivalent of a new word *here* and then, after just a few short phrases, another other new word *here*). **However, not all of these were necessarily personally invented by Shakespeare himself**: they merely appear for the first time in his published works, and he was more than happy to make use of other people's neologisms and local dialect words, and to mine the latest fashions and fads for new ideas.

Thee, *thou* and *thy* (signifying familiarity or social inferiority, as in most European languages today) were still very prevalent in Shakespeare's time, and **Shakespeare himself made good use of the subtle social implications of using *thou* rather than *you*. *Thee* and *thou* had disappeared almost completely from standard usage by the middle of the 17th Century, paradoxically making English one of the least socially conscious of languages**. The commonplace letter "e" found at the end of many medieval English words was also beginning its long decline by this time, although it was retained in many words to indicate the lengthening of the preceding vowel (e.g. *name* pronounced as "naim", not as the Old English "nam-a"). The effects of the Great Vowel Shift were underway, but by no means complete, by the time of Shakespeare, as can be seen in some of his rhyme schemes (e.g. *tea* and *sea* rhymed with *say*, *die* rhymed with *memory*, etc).

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International Trade



While all these important developments were underway, British naval superiority was also growing. **In the 16th and 17th Century, international trade expanded immensely**, and loanwords were absorbed from the languages of many other countries throughout the world, including those of other trading and imperial nations such as Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands. Among these were:

- French (e.g. *bizarre, ballet, crew, progress, chocolate, salon, duel, brigade, infantry, comrade, volunteer, detail, passport, explorer, ticket, machine, cuisine, prestige, garage, shock, moustache, vogue*);
- Italian (e.g. *carnival, fiasco, arsenal, casino, miniature, design, bankrupt, grotto, studio, umbrella, rocket, ballot, balcony, macaroni, piano, opera, violin*);
- Spanish (e.g. *armada, cork, barricade, cannibal*);
- Portuguese (e.g. *breeze, tank, marmalade, molasses*);
- German (e.g. *kindergarten, noodle, dumb, dollar, muffin, hex, wanderlust, gimmick, waltz, seminar, ouch!*);
- Dutch/Flemish (e.g. *spool, stripe, holster, skipper, booze, poll, scrap, curl, scum, knapsack, sketch, landscape, easel, smuggle, caboose, yacht, cruise, dock, buoy, reef, bluff, freight, leak, snoop, spook, sleigh, brick, pump, boss, lottery*);
- Basque (e.g. *bizarre, anchovy*);
- Norwegian (e.g. *iceberg, ski, slalom, troll*);
- Icelandic (e.g. *mumps, saga, geyser*);
- Finnish (e.g. *sauna*);
- Persian (e.g. *shawl, lemon, caravan, bazaar, tambourine*);
- Arabic (e.g. *harem, jar, magazine, algebra, algorithm, almanac, alchemy, zenith, admiral, sherbet, coffee, alcohol, mattress, syrup, hazard, lute*);
- Turkish (e.g. *coffee, yoghurt, caviar, horde, chess, kiosk, tulip, turban*);
- Russian (e.g. *sable*);
- Japanese (e.g. *tycoon, geisha, karate, samurai*);
- Malay (e.g. *bamboo, amok, caddy, gong, ketchup*);
- Chinese (e.g. *tea, typhoon*).
- Polynesian (e.g. *taboo*).

English was now well on its way to becoming the universal language of the planet!

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Bringing it all together

When studied on its own, the history of the English language is incredible. The factors, the influences, the inventions, and the people all weighed heavily into what would become a most impressive language – a language that would eventually become the universal language of the world.

However, when we overlay the extraordinary history of the English Bible, we see something very different. We see the work of our God and His providence. We see the events of history unfolding in a masterpiece of antiquity. We see the hand of God using men – both lost and saved – to produce the most incredible Book that ever there was.

The Authorized Version of the Bible in English would become a _____ in the hands of an omnipotent God. With it, He would shape the language that would prepare the way for His Son's return. As missionaries and faithful saints took that blessed Book all over the world, souls would be saved, lives would be changed, and the language would advance.

An intentional approach to a holy Book

After studying the history of the English Bible and the history of the English language, there is one most important detail that must be considered. The translators were some of the most learned men in the world. These men would have been well aware of a shift in the language towards the ultimate removal of words like “thee” and “thou”...

It seems odd that they would choose to use these words if they knew that they were already considered “old words”. **Why would they do that?**

They were _____ in the usage of such words in the King James Version. The reason is that from the first day the Authorized Version of the Bible came off the printing presses, it was designed to read and sound authoritative and as though it was coming from the past!!

Designed to be read out loud and preached

When the Authorized Version was introduced in 1611, it carried these words on its title page: “Appointed to be read in churches.” It was clear that it was intended for public reading and worship. According to one account of the translation process, the sound of the text figured prominently in the process. One translator read the proposed text as others listened while reading.

The result was a Bible that heralded the authority of God and rang out from pulpits as if it was God Himself speaking. And, that is exactly what was happening! God had completed His work of preserving His words and now men could read and preach them for all the world to hear.

The common people could now obey Jesus' command to **preach** the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15 – And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

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TIME TO THINK

Things that are *different* are NOT the *same*!

John 7:53-8:11

<u>KJV</u>	And every man went unto his own house.
<u>NKJV</u>	And everyone went to his <i>own</i> house.* Footnote: * The words <i>And everyone</i> through <i>sin no more</i> (8:11) are bracketed by NU-Text as not original. They are present in over 900 manuscripts.
<u>NIV</u>	[*Then each went to his own home.
<u>NASB</u>	[*Everyone went to his home.
<u>RSV</u>	[*They went each to his own house,
<u>NLT</u>	[<i>The most ancient Greek manuscripts do not include John 7:53–8:11.</i>] Then the meeting broke up, and everybody went home.

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.