

A little history

- Pre-English inhabitants of Britain
 - Picts
 - Celts
 - Romans
- Julius Caesar landed in Britain in 55BCE.
- They held part of the island until about 410 CE.
- Angles, Saxons, and Jutes set sail across the North Sea from Denmark and Germany (known then as Saxony) in CE 449.

Language contact and borrowing

What words we borrow depends on our relationship with the donor language.

Pre-English Latin loans (Some lost in ModE)

Latin - OE (-ModE)

campum-camp (field, battle) (lost)

tributum-trifet (tribute) (lost)

mango-mangian (to barter with), -monger

toloneum-toll (toll)

pondo-pund-pound

milia passum (a thousand steps)-mile

moneta-mynet (a coin), mint

calcem-cealc, chalk

cuprum-copor-copper

pic- pitch

butyrum-butere (butter)

caseus-cese-cheese

uinum-win-wine

mentha-minte-mint (plant)

pisum-pisa-pea

piper-pipor-pepper

prunum-plume-plum

balteus-belt-belt

soccus-socc-sock

pulinus-pyl(w)e-pillow

catillus-citel (LOST) (ModE kettle is borrowed from

Danish, which also borrowed it from Latin)

candela-candel-candle

benna-binn-bin

cuppa-cuppe-cup, discus-disc-dish

panna-panne-pan

coquina-cycene-kitchen

pinna-pinn-pin

gemma-gimm (gem) LOST--ModE gem borrowed from Fr.

After the fall of Rome, Latin was still being used in trade with Old English Speakers:

400-650 CE: prafost (provost), ceaster (town), cugle (cowl), mentel (cloak), cist (chest), paegel (pail), pott (pot), munuc (monk), traht (text), catt (cat), truht (trout), peru (pear), glaedene (gladiola), leahtric (lettuce), aebs (fir tree), senep (mustard), laser (tare, a kind of weed)

Later on, Latin was also the language of the church and hence also the language of scholarship:

650-1000 AD: yndse (ounce), fenester (window), cluster (cloister), purs (purse), caeppe (cope), coc (cook), scutel (dish), rabbian (to rage), creda (creed), discipul (disciples), maesse (church mass), papa (pope), aelmesse (alms), eretic (heretic), martir (martyr), organ (song), son (musical sound), scol (school), philosoph (philosopher), cometa (comet), bises (leap year day),. bibliothece (library), palm (palm), balsam (balsam), caric (dried fig), lilie (liy), peonie (peony), cancer (cancer), loppestre (locust), tier (tiger), fenix (phoenix), camel (camel)

Neoclassicisms (from Latin and Greek)

Biological classification:

If we use the name cyanocitta cristata for bluejay, we don't know any more about the bird itself; cyano- just means blue.

Anatomy and medicine: conjunctivitis, pulmonic, renal failure, cerebral palsy, in vitro, in utero, penes

Linguistics: spirantization, pulmonic egressive (airstream), dental, pejoration, amelioration, bilabial, velar, alveolar, interdental, palatal, nasal...

Law: habeus corpus, ex post facto, affadavit

Writing: e.g., i.e., etc., et al.

Borrowings from Celtic languages (from Williams)

Pre-Anglo-Saxon: rice (kingdom), ambiht (servant), dun (hill)

Post-Anglo-Saxon: bratt (cloak), bannuc (piece of cake), gafeluc (small spear), brocc (badger), carr (rock), luh (lake), torr (rocky peak), dry (magician), clucege (bell), ancor (anchorite), staer (story), aestel (thin board), cine (sheet of folded parchment).

What do these borrowing patterns tell us about influence of Celts on the English?

- Not very influential, compared with Latin influence
- Presence of loans in place names typical of borrowings by invading cultures.

Later loans from Celtic:

Irish: shamrock, leprechaun, galore, banshee, shillelagh, blarney, colleen, keen (wail).
40+ words borrowed.

Scottish: clan, bog, plaid, slogan, cairn, whiskey. 30+ words borrowed

Welsh: crag, penguin (used to stand for the Great Auk), gull. 10+ borrowed.

Some more history

- The Danes escalated their raids to a full-scale invasion of England from **850-878**.
- In 878, King Alfred finally defeated the Danes in battle, and made the Treaty of Wedmore, where Danes agreed to remain in the east part of the country, in the area called **DANELAW**.
- Danelaw existed for 80 years or so, until King Alfred's heirs were able to overcome them and take over the eastern part of England again, just before AD 1000.
- In 1015 a Dane (born and raised in Britain) named Cnute defeated Edmund Ironside (of Alfred's line) in battle, and actually became king.

Before 1000 CE there were only a few Danish loan words, most now lost from English, that stood for concepts such as:

beaked ship, small warship, fleet, oarlock
battle, rapine,
administrative district, action at law, assembly

After 1000 CE many words were borrowed into English from Danish that are part of our basic vocabulary now:

Nouns: *band, booth, bull, dirt, down (feathers), egg, fellow, freckle, kneel, kid, leg, link, reindeer, reef (of sail), scab, scales, scrap, seat, sister, skin, skirt, sky, snare, steak, window; birch, boon, gait, gap, guess, loan, race, rift, score, skill, slaughter, stack, thrift, tidings, trust, want, gift.*

Verbs: *call, crawl, die, get, give, lift, raise, rid, cast, clip, crave, droop, flit, gape, kindle, nag, scowl, snub, sprint, thrust.*

Adjectives: *flat, loose, low, odd, tight, weak, awkward, ill, meek, seemly, sly, rotten, tattered, muggy.*

Pronouns and other words: *they, their, them, both, same, though, till.*

The Norman conquest and occupation 1066-1250

Before 1066 there were only a few French loanwords in English. Here are some:

proud, sot, tower, castle, market, chancellor

From 1066 to 1250:

abbot, canon, cardinal, clerk, countess, empress, duke, court, rent, cell, justice, miracle, baptist, dame, prince, chapel, image, lion, reason, pilgrim, saint, virgin, obedience, religion, sermon, prophet, patriarch, archangel, circumcision, sacrament, fruit, sepulchre, custom, admiral, baron, prelate, crown, astronomy, council, nunnery, abbey, discipline, physician, parishioner, city, crucifix, purgatory, tournament, desert, unicorn, sponge, journey, rob, large, silence, dangerous, jealous, glutton, joy, tempt, witness, chapter, lesson, story, medicine, confessor, constable, heir, chair, galley, butler, canticle, peace, justice, uncle, aunt, cousin, basin, lamp, rose, catch, change, mercy, poor, rich, wait, prove, war, arrive pay.

Between 1250 and 1350, there were many French loan words entering the basic vocabulary of standard English. These are ordinary words, though mostly words used by educated people.

1250-1350: *action, cost, deceit, dozen, ease, fault, force, grief, labor, number, opinion, pair, piece, season, sound, square, substance, task, use, bucket, calendar, face, gum, metal, mountain, ocean, people, actual, brief, certain, clear, common, contrary, eager, easy, final, honest, real, second, single, solid, strange, sudden, usual, allow, apply, approach, arrange, carry, close, continue, count cover, defeat, destroy, excuse, force, form, increase, inform, join, move, please, proceed, push, remember, travel.*

Sometimes borrowing creates doublets. Let's consider these examples cases:

skirt & shirt

cow & beef, pig & pork, chicken & poultry

tocino & bacon

American English differs from British English in part due to loanwords from Native American languages

Place names: States

From Aleut: Alaska

From Algonkian: Mississippi ('Great River'), Illinois, Missouri, Wyoming, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Oregon

From Siouan: Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska (Osage for 'Flat Water'), N. and S. Dakota

From Cherokee: Tennessee ('River')

From Ute: Utah

From Papago: Arizona

From Nahuatl: New Mexico (Aztec)

From Hawaiian: Hawai'i

Named after the Tejas Indians: Texas

Some local California place names (out of hundreds)

Chumash: Malibu

- Port Hueneme ("village")
- Point Mugu (*muwú*, 'beach')
- Lompoc (*lompoc*, village name)
- Ojai (*ʔawhay*, 'moon')
- Pasadena ('crown of the valley')

Yokuts: Tehachape Mountains

Coast Miwok: Bolinas

- Tomales (*Tamals*, Bay People)
- Cotati
- Petaluma
- Tamalpais

Sierra Miwok: Yosemite

Pomo: Gualala ('where the water comes down')

Wintun: Sonoma

Patwin: Yolo, Napa (Patwin or Suisun)

Karkin: Carquinez Straits, Carquinez bridge

Washo: Tahoe

Columbus's expedition wrote down the first loans from Native American languages: *potato, maize, barbecue, hammock, and canoe* are all from the Arawakan languages of the Caribbean.

Some food loans from Native American languages into English (some through Spanish): *tomato, chili, chocolate, squash, chocolate, avocados, persimmons, pecans, papayas, hominy, succotash, (corn)pone, pemmican*

Squash was first recorded as *isquoutersquash*, from the Massachusetts language: askoot+ashkw+ash

plant+inanimate pl.

In 1608 Captain John Smith recorded *raccoon* (written as *rougroughcun*).

Other Native American loan words from that era (some borrowed through French): *moose, opossum, skunk, terrapin, caribou, hickory, pecan, persimmon, woodchuck* (from Cree or Ojibwa *odjik*), *caucus* (Political group meeting).

bayou from Choctaw *bayuk* 'stream' via La. French.

Sequoiah named after the great Cherokee leader who developed the Cherokee writing system.

The All-American term *coca-cola* is all from borrowings; *coca* is Quechua, same base as *cocaine*; *cola* is of African origin.

Many borrowings refer specifically to Native American cultural items: *tomahawk, teepee, wigwam, moccasins, totem (pole), pow-wow, kayak, igloo*.

Calques are loan translations. Here are some from NA languages: *paleface, warpaint, warpath, firewater, medicine man, Great Spirit*.

Buck '\$1,' short for 'buckskin.' Unit of trade with Indians.

Two famous sound changes between PIE and English

1. Grimm's Law

PIE voiceless stops > Germanic fricatives

*p > f Fr. pied ~ Greek pod- ~ Gothic fōtus ~ Eng. foot
Skt. páñtṣa ~ Grk. pénte ~ Ger. fünf ~ Eng. five
Skt. pitár- ~ Lat. pater ~ Eng. father

*t > θ Skrt. tráyas ~ Lat. trēs ~ Eng. three

*k > (x >) h Grk. (he-)katón ~ Lat. centum ~ Eng. hundred

PIE voiced stops > Germanic voiceless stops

*b > p Grk. kánnabis ~ Eng. hemp (may be borrowed)

*d > t Skrt. dánt- ~ Grk. odónt- ~ Lat. dent- ~ Eng. tooth

*g > k Grk. génos ~ Lat. genus ~ Eng. kin
Grk. gónu ~ Fr. genou ~ Eng. knee
Sp. grano ~ Fr. grain ~ Eng. corn

PIE voiced aspirated stops > Ger. plain voiced stops

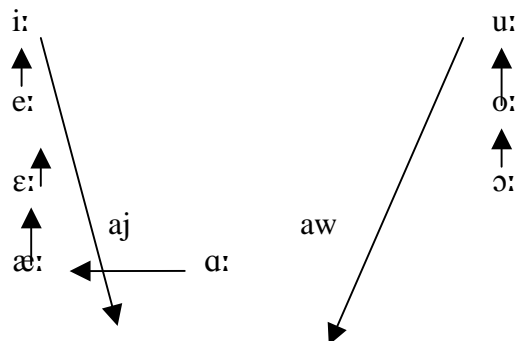
*bh > b Skrt. bhrātar ~ Eng. brother

*dh > d Skrt. mádhu ~ Eng. mead

*gh > g PIE *ghos-ti ~ Eng. guest

2. The Great Vowel Shift

The Great Vowel Shift is a series of changes between Middle English and Modern English whereby long vowels raised or diphthongized.



Chaucer		Shakespeare		Modern English
/bi:tə/		/bəjt/		/bajt/
/be:tə/		/bi:t/		/bit/
/mɛ:t/		/me:t/		/mit/
/bæ:t/		/be:t/		/bit/
/na:mə/		/næ:m/		/nejm/
/hu:s/		/həws/		/haws/
/bo:t/		/bu:t/		/but/
/bɔ:t/		/bo:t/		/bowt/

Grammatical change

Nouns, adjectives and verbs had many more grammatical endings in Old English than in Modern English. Let's just consider one noun:

	'man'	
	sg.	pl.
Nominative	wer	weras
Genitive	weres	wera
Dative	were	werum
Accusative	wer	weras

In Modern English only the Genitive 's survives on most nouns. Pronouns have maintained more cases but the Dative and Accusative have conflated.

	OE		ModE
Nominative	iġ		I
Genitive	mín		my
Dative	mé		me
Accusative	mé/metġ		me

Semantic change happens in all languages.
Here are some English examples:

Broadening

- English *dog* once referred to a particular breed.

Narrowing

- *hound* < 'dog'
- *wife* < 'woman'
- Old English de:or 'animal' > *deer*
- ME *girl* meant 'child or young person of either sex'

- *meat* < ‘food’:
1649 “How to feed Swin, without any cornish **meat**.”
1677 “Give them [Coneys] not too much green juicy **meat**, unless you intermix therewith what is dry... otherwise they will be Cathed, or tun-belly’d.

Pejoration

- *spinster* ‘one who spins’ > ‘unmarried older woman’
- *mistress* originally meant ‘a woman who rules, has control or authority over someone else’

Amelioration

- OE *prættig* ‘sly’ > Mod. Eng. *pretty*
- OE *cniht* ‘boy, servant’ > ‘servant’ > ‘military servant’ > ‘warrior serving the king’ > the cutest Beatle. Compare German *Knecht* ‘servant, farm hand’
- *dude!* < ‘a ridiculous dandy’ (attested 1883)

Hyperbole---shifts in meaning due to exaggeration

- *awfully*, *horribly*, and *terribly* just mean ‘very’ now, not really having to do with awe, horror, or terror
- *lame* ‘crippled’ > ‘stupid, awkward, socially inept’

Taboo replacement

- *ass* > *donkey*, *burro* in America
- W.C.
- flatulence
- “oh my heck”---Neleh from Survivor Marquesas
- *-ess* in English