

Contents

List of Tables, Figures, and Sample Texts xiii
Preface xvii

1 Studying the History of English	1
Overview	1
Objectives	1
Why Study the History of English?	2
A Definition of Language	4
The Components of Language	5
Linguistic Change in English	9
The Periods of English	9
An Example of Linguistic Change	13
The Nature of Linguistic Change	15
The Inevitability of Change	15
The Arbitrary Nature of the Linguistic Sign	17
The Origin of Language	18
Attitudes Toward Linguistic Change	20
Linguistic Corruption	20
Prescriptivism versus Descriptivism	21
Resources for Studying the History of English	22
General Dictionaries	22
Historical and Etymological Dictionaries	23
Historical Grammar and Syntax	23
Concordances and Historical Corpora	24

Recommended Web Links 26

Further Reading 26

Further Viewing 27

2 The Sounds and Writing of English 28

Overview 28

Objectives 28

The Sounds of English 29

The Phonetic Alphabet 29

The Phoneme 29

The Production of Speech 30

Consonants 31

The Consonant Sounds of English 33

Vowels 39

The Vowels of English 41

Stress 46

The Writing of English 48

The History of Writing 48

The Origin of the Alphabet 50

Recommended Web Links 53

Further Reading 53

3 Causes and Mechanisms of Language Change 55

Overview 55

Objectives 56

Causes of Change 56

Internal 56

External 58

Mechanisms of Phonological Change 64

Determining Sounds from Written Records 64

The Nature of Sound Change 64

Types of Sound Change 65

Mechanisms of Morphological and Syntactic Change 70

Analogy 70

Grammaticalization 73

Conservative and Innovative Changes 74

Mechanisms of Semantic Change	76
Types of Semantic Change	77
Some Generalizations About Semantic Change	86
Recommended Web Links	87
Further Reading	88

4 The Indo-European Language Family and Proto-Indo-European 89

Overview	89
Objectives	89
Classification of Languages	90
Typological Classification	90
Genealogical Classification	93
Language Families	94
The Indo-European Language Family	94
The Discovery of Indo-European	95
The Branches of Indo-European	96
Satem Languages	97
Centum Languages	101
Proto-Language	104
Reconstruction	104
Proto-Indo-European	109
Linguistic Features	109
Society	115
Homeland	116
Nostratic Theory	118
Recommended Web Links	119
Further Reading	119
Further Viewing	120

5 Germanic and the Development of Old English 121

Overview	121
Objectives	121
Proto-Germanic	122

Grammatical and Lexical Changes from PIE to Germanic 126

Phonological Changes from PIE to Germanic 130

Grimm's Law 130

Verner's Law 136

Accent Shift and Ordering of Changes 138

Vowel Changes 139

Second Sound Shift and Mechanisms of Change 141

A Brief History of Anglo-Saxon England 143

The Germanic Settlement of England 144

The Christianization of the Anglo-Saxons 146

The Scandinavian Invasions of England 147

The Records of the Anglo-Saxons 148

The Dialects of Old English 148

The Written Records of Old English 150

Recommended Web Links 151

Further Reading 152

6 The Sounds and Words of Old English 153

Overview 153

Objectives 153

The Orthographic System of Old English 154

The Phonological System of Old English 154

Consonants 154

Vowels 159

Sound Changes 162

The Word Stock of the Anglo-Saxons 165

The Continuity of Germanic Vocabulary in English 165

Borrowing in Old English 166

Word Formation in Old English 172

Stress 176

Recommended Web Links 179

Further Reading 180

7 The Grammar of Old English 182

Overview 182

Objectives	182
The Nominal System	183
The Grammatical Categories of the Noun	183
Pronouns	184
Nouns	187
Demonstratives, Adjectives, and Adverbs	193
Agreement	200
Case Usage	201
The Verbal System	206
Verb Classes	207
The Grammatical Categories of the Verb	210
Inflectional Endings of the Verb	211
Syntax	215
Verbal Periphrases	215
Word Order	218
Recommended Web Links	227
Further Reading	227
Further Viewing	228

8 The Rise of Middle English: Words and Sounds 229

Overview	229
Objectives	229
French and English in Medieval England	230
The Norman Conquest	230
The Establishment of French	232
The Re-establishment of English	234
The Word Stock of Middle English	236
French Influence	236
Latin Influence	239
The Written Records of Middle English	242
Middle English Dialects	242
Middle English Literature	247
Orthographic Changes	247
Consonant Changes	251

Vowel Changes 254
 Qualitative Changes 254
 Quantitative Changes 256
Recommended Web Links 262
Further Reading 263

9 **The Grammar of Middle English and Rise of a Written Standard** 265

Overview 265
Objectives 265
Vowel Reduction and Its Effects 266
Grammatical Developments in Middle English 269
 Adjectives and Nouns 269
 Pronouns 274
 Loss of Grammatical Gender 277
 Verbs 280
 Syntax 286
Change from Synthetic to Analytic 295
Middle English as a Creole? 297
The Rise of a Standard Dialect 299
Recommended Web Links 305
Further Reading 305

10 **The Sounds and Inflections of Early Modern English** 307

Overview 307
Objectives 307
The Great Vowel Shift 308
 Nature of the Shift 308
 Details of the Shift 309
Changes in the Short Vowels and Diphthongs 315
Changes in Consonants 319
Renaissance Respellings 323
Changes in Nominal Inflected Forms 325
 Nouns 325
 Pronouns 327

Case Usage	334
Changes in Verbal Inflected Forms	337
Verb Classes	337
Inflectional Endings	340
Recommended Web Links	343
Further Reading	344

11 Early Modern English Verbal Constructions and Eighteenth-Century Prescriptivism 345

Overview	345
Objectives	345
Early Modern English Syntax	346
Reflexive and Impersonal Verbs	346
The Subjunctive and the Modal Auxiliaries	348
Verbal Periphrases	349
Do	352
Word Order	354
The Rise of Prescriptivism	357
Renaissance Concerns About the Language	357
Social, Linguistic, and Philosophical Reasons for Prescriptivism	358
Important Prescriptive Grammarians of the Eighteenth Century	359
Aims of the Eighteenth-Century Grammarians	361
Ascertainment	361
An Academy	362
Methods of the Eighteenth-Century Grammarians	364
Authority	365
Model of Latin	366
Etymology	367
Reason	368
The Question of Usage	372
Dictionaries	375
Recommended Web Links	379
Further Reading	397
Further Viewing	380

12 Modern English	381
Overview	381
Objectives	381
Grammatical and Lexical Changes Since Early Modern English	382
Grammatical Changes	382
Modern Borrowings	386
The Oxford English Dictionary	389
The Development of National Varieties	392
British versus North American English	395
Canadian English	402
Australian and New Zealand English	407
African English	410
Caribbean English	413
Important Regional Varieties	415
English in the British Isles	415
English in the United States	423
Changes in Progress	436
Neologisms	436
Grammatical Changes	438
Recommended Web Links	443
Further Reading	444
Further Viewing	446
Exercise Key	447
Glossary of Linguistic Terms	489
References	507
Index	517