

# CONTENTS

List of figures	xi
Acknowledgements	xiii
<b>SECTION A: INTRODUCTION</b>	1
<b>An external history of English</b>	2
<b>A1 Origins of English</b>	3
A1.1 The Romans in Britain	3
A1.2 The arrival of the Anglo-Saxons	4
A1.3 English: what's in a name?	4
A1.4 Christianity reaches England	6
A1.5 Viking raids	7
<b>A2 The history of English or the history of Englishes?</b>	8
A2.1 Old English dialects	8
A2.2 The rise of West Saxon	9
A2.3 Dialect boundaries	10
<b>A3 Language contact in the Middle Ages</b>	11
A3.1 1066 and all that	12
A3.2 From Old English to Middle English	12
A3.3 The decline of French and the rise of English	14
A3.4 Middle English dialects	15
<b>A4 From Middle English to Early Modern English</b>	16
A4.1 External influences on pronunciation	16
A4.2 The translation of the Bible into English	18
<b>A5 The process of standardisation</b>	20
A5.1 Dialects and emerging standards	20
A5.2 Caxton and the impact of the printing press	22
A5.3 Dictionaries and grammars	23
A5.4 The boundaries of Early Modern English	24
<b>A6 Colonialism, Imperialism and the spread of English</b>	25
A6.1 English in the New World	25
A6.2 The expansion of the British Empire	26
<b>A7 Moves towards Present Day English</b>	28
A7.1 The Industrial Revolution	28
A7.2 The <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>	29

A7.3	A spoken standard	20
A7.4	The linguistic consequences of war	30
A7.5	Technology and communication	31
<b>A8</b>	<b>Global English and beyond</b>	31
A8.1	English: a global language	31
A8.2	Globalisation and changes in English	33
A8.3	Assessing the linguistic impact of historical events	34

## **SECTION B: DEVELOPMENT** 35

### **A developing language** 36

<b>B1</b>	<b>Understanding Old English</b>	36
B1.1	Spelling and sound in Old English	36
B1.2	The vocabulary of Old English	39
B1.3	Old English: a synthetic language	40
B1.4	Case, gender and number	41
B1.5	Old English verbs	43
<b>B2</b>	<b>Varieties of Old English</b>	44
B2.1	Old English and Scots	45
B2.2	Old English dialectal differences	45
<b>B3</b>	<b>The emergence of Middle English</b>	47
B3.1	The context of change	48
B3.2	Spelling and sound in Middle English	48
B3.3	Changes in the system of inflections	51
B3.4	Middle English vocabulary	53
<b>B4</b>	<b>Sound shifts</b>	53
B4.1	Speech sounds	54
B4.2	Changes in the long vowels	57
B4.3	The Uniformitarian Principle in relation to the Great Vowel Shift	58
B4.4	Consequences of the Great Vowel Shift	59
<b>B5</b>	<b>Writing in Early Modern English</b>	60
B5.1	Orthography in Early Modern English	61
B5.2	Some grammatical characteristics	62
B5.3	Expanding the lexicon	66
<b>B6</b>	<b>The development of American English</b>	66
B6.1	Causes of linguistic development in the American colonies	67
B6.2	A developing standard	68
B6.3	'Archaisms' in American English	68
B6.4	The beginnings of African American English	69
<b>B7</b>	<b>International English</b>	70
B7.1	Australian English	70

B7.2	Indian English	72
B7.3	Pidgins and creoles on the West African coast	74
<b>B8</b>	<b>The globalisation of English</b>	76
B8.1	Attitudes towards global English	76
B8.2	World Standard English	77
B8.3	Fragmentation or fusion?	78

## **SECTION C: EXPLORATION** 79

### **Exploring the history of English** 80

<b>C1</b>	<b>The roots of English</b>	81
C1.1	Language family trees	81
C1.2	Pronouncing Old English	84
C1.3	Case	84
<b>C2</b>	<b>Regions and dialects</b>	86
C2.1	Dialectal differences in an Old English text	86
C2.2	Place names	87
<b>C3</b>	<b>From Old English to Middle English</b>	91
C3.1	Loanwords	91
C3.2	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	93
C3.3	A Middle English <i>Pater noster</i>	95
<b>C4</b>	<b>Codification and attitudes towards English</b>	95
C4.1	<i>A Table Alphabeticall</i>	96
C4.2	<i>English Orthographie</i>	97
C4.3	Problems with prescriptivism	100
<b>C5</b>	<b>Further elements of grammar in Early Modern English</b>	102
C5.1	More on pronouns	103
C5.2	Gradable adjectives	104
C5.3	What did <i>do</i> do?	106
<b>C6</b>	<b>English in the New World</b>	108
C6.1	Loanwords in American English	108
C6.2	The politics of spelling	110
C6.3	Early African American English	112
<b>C7</b>	<b>Present Day Englishes</b>	113
C7.1	Unknown words from Australian English?	114
C7.2	Enlarging the lexicon	115
C7.3	Tok Pisin	120
<b>C8</b>	<b>The future of English</b>	122
C8.1	The cost of global English	122
C8.2	Scare stories: declining standards	122
C8.3	Future developments in English	124

<b>SECTION D: EXTENSION</b>	127
<b>Readings in the history of English</b>	128
<b>D1 Vocabulary in Old English</b>	128
D1.1 Other differences between Old English and Modern English (Bruce Mitchell)	128
D1.2 Issues to consider	133
<b>D2 Old English dialects</b>	134
D2.1 The study of Old English dialects (Joseph P. Crowley)	134
D2.2 Issues to consider	138
<b>D3 The influence of French</b>	139
D3.1 Who spoke French in England? (Douglas Kibbee)	139
D3.2 Issues to consider	143
<b>D4 Changes in pronunciation</b>	144
D4.1 The Great Vowel Shift (Dick Leith)	144
D4.2 The Mad Hatter's tea-party (Jean Aitchison)	147
D4.3 Issues to consider	154
<b>D5 'Fixing' the language</b>	154
D5.1 The appeal to authority, 1650–1800 (Albert C. Baugh and Thomas Cable)	154
D5.2 Issues to consider	160
<b>D6 The development of American English</b>	160
D6.1 The beginnings of American (H. L. Mencken)	160
D6.2 Issues to consider	166
<b>D7 A corpus approach to linguistic development</b>	166
D7.1 Recent grammatical change in written English, 1961–1992: some preliminary findings of a comparison of American with British English (Geoffrey Leech and Nick Smith)	166
D7.2 Issues to consider	177
<b>D8 The future of English?</b>	178
D8.1 English as a transitional phenomenon (David Graddol)	178
D8.2 Issues to consider	182
Glossary of linguistic terms	183
Further reading	189
<i>General histories of English</i>	189
<i>Old English</i>	189
<i>Middle English</i>	190
<i>Early Modern English</i>	190
<i>Eighteenth-century English to the present day</i>	190
<i>World Englishes</i>	191
References	193
Index	201

# FIGURES

Map 1	The Anglo-Saxon heptarchy	6
Map 2	Middle English dialect areas	15
B4.1.1	Pure vowels in English	56
B4.1.2	The diphthong [əʊ]	57
B4.2.1	The Great Vowel Shift in English	58
C.1	Hierarchy of language	81
C1.1.1	A language family tree for the Indo-European languages	82
C4.2.1	Title page of Owen Price's <i>English Orthographie</i>	98
C4.2.2	Extract from <i>English Orthographie</i>	98
C4.2.3	Extract from <i>English Orthographie</i>	99
C4.3.1	Article from <i>The Observer</i> , 28 October 2007	102
D4.2.1	The Great Vowel Shift	148
D4.2.2	Examples of the Great Vowel Shift	148
D4.2.3	Drag and push chains	149
D4.2.4	High German or Second Consonant Shift	150
D4.2.5	Examples of High German or Second Consonant Shift	150
D4.2.6	Drag chain in Yiddish dialect of northern Poland	151
D4.2.7	The Great Vowel Shift of Late Middle Chinese	151
D4.2.8	Examples of the Great Vowel Shift of Late Middle Chinese	151
D4.2.9	Chronology of the Great Vowel Shift of Late Middle Chinese	152
D4.2.10	Combined push and drag chain	152
D4.2.11	English diphthongs: conventional (older) pronunciation	153
D4.2.12	Estuary English vowels	153
D7.1.1	The Brown, Frown, LOB and FLOB corpora	167
D7.1.2	Declining profile of the core modals in AmE and BrE	168
D7.1.3	Overall frequencies of semi-modals	170
D8.1.1	Estimates of first-language speakers of English from 1950 to 2050 as calculated by the engco model, together with speculations regarding L2 and EFL communities	179