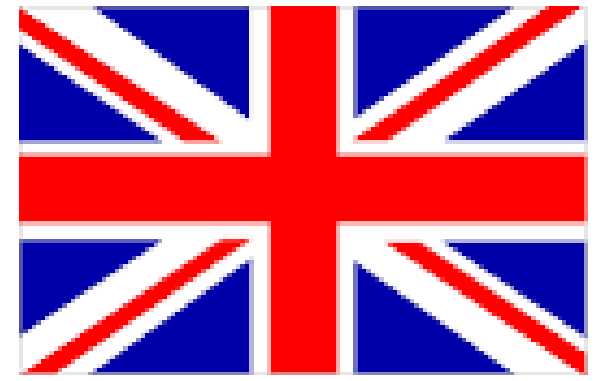


Let's celebrate English!

Modern English developed from earlier forms of the language that were spoken in England hundreds of years ago. It has developed into its current form over more than 1400 years. The English language is still evolving - on average, a new word is added to the English dictionary every two hours.



Modern English is strongly influenced by Latin, French and Norse. It 'borrows' words from many other languages.

English has the third highest number of native speakers of any language in the world. It's also the most widely-learnt second language in the world - there are more people in the world who have learnt English as an additional language than there are native speakers! In total there are probably over two billion speakers of English in the world.



English is the majority native language in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Ireland, and it is widely spoken in some areas of the Caribbean, Africa and South Asia. English is also the 'language of the air' - all pilots use English while flying, regardless of their origins or native languages.

From Wikipedia: English is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in early medieval England and eventually became a global lingua franca. It is named after the Angles, one of the Germanic tribes that migrated to the area of Great Britain that later took their name, as England. Both names derive from Anglia, a peninsula in the Baltic Sea.

Resources and activities

Timeline of the English language:

<https://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/learning-activities/languages/words/timeline-english-language-2/>

Interesting English language facts:

<https://www.englishclub.com/interesting-facts/>

Surprising/historical facts about English:

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/nine-surprising-facts-about-the-english-language/4806416.html>

Youtube video: history of the English language (5 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEaSxhcns7Y>

Educational video: 'The Evolution of Language' (3 mins; references human evolution):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTjFghkLdhY>