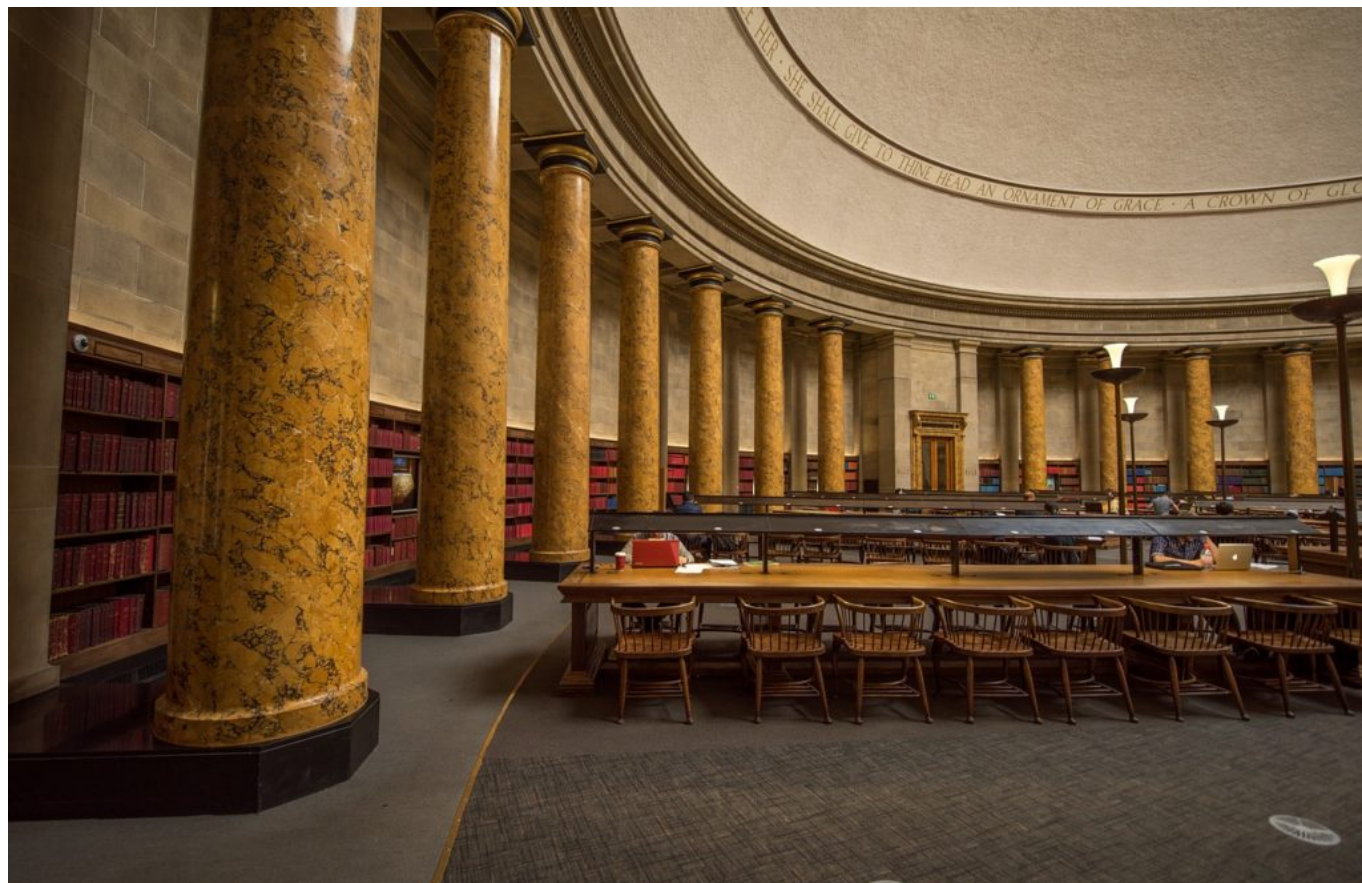


The English language has roots in several languages, including Latin, Germanic, and French. It is a West Germanic language that originated from the Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to Britain by regular people from what is now northwest Germany and the southern Netherlands. After the regular people came the professionals: the Romans. **[They invaded Britain in 43 AD](#)**, and while they didn't stay long, they did leave a lasting impact on the language. The next major influence on English was Old Norse, spoken by the Viking invaders who arrived in the late 9th century. By the 11th century, Old English had been established as the language of England. However, this all changed with the **[Norman Conquest in 1066](#)**. The new rulers of England were French-speaking Normans, and for centuries French remained the language of the ruling class while English was relegated to a subordinate position. Over time, however, English gradually reasserted itself and by the 14th century, it had once again become the predominant language of England.

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## 1. English is a Germanic language that evolved from the Anglo-Saxon dialect

The English language is a Germanic language that evolved from the [Anglo-Saxon](#) dialects brought to Britain by Germanic invaders. The earliest form of English, Old English, was spoken from the 5th to the 11th centuries. Middle English emerged in the 12th century and developed into Modern English in the 15th century. The English language has been influenced by a number of other languages, including French, Latin, and Dutch. Some research shows that the English language may be related to the Frisian languages, which are spoken in the Netherlands and Germany. However, this connection is still debated by linguists. Some common English words derived from Germanic languages are water (wasser), father (vater), and mother (mutter). Some common English words derived from the Latin language are word (verbum), star (stella), and animal (animal). The English language is constantly evolving, English has also borrowed words from many other languages, including Greek, Arabic, and Hindi. Every year the English language adds to its dictionary about 1,000 new words.

**Article: [Teaching Approaches, Methods, Techniques, & Students' Performances in the English Language Class](#)**





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## 2. Old English was spoken by the Anglo-Saxons who invaded

## England in the 5th century AD

The Anglo-Saxons who invaded England in the 5th century AD brought with them their own language, which we now call Old English. This language was spoken by the people of England for centuries, and it eventually gave rise to the modern English language that we use today.

**Old English** was a Germanic language, which means that it shared some similarities with other Germanic languages such as Dutch and German. However, Old English was also quite different from these other languages, due to the influence of the Celtic languages that were spoken in Britain before the Anglo-Saxon invasion. Over time, the various dialects of Old English began to diverge from each other, and by the 11th century, there were already two distinct forms of the language: Northern and Southern Old English.

During the Middle Ages, there was a large influx of words from Latin and Greek into the English language. This was due to the fact that many scholars were educated in Latin or Greek, and they often used these languages when writing about their work. As a result, English acquired a large number of words from these languages, particularly in the fields of science and philosophy.

**The Renaissance period** saw a further increase in the borrowing of words from foreign languages, as trade and travel became more common during this time. Words from Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese began to enter the English language, particularly in the areas of art and fashion.



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### **3. The Normans conquered England in 1066 and brought with them their own French language, which mixed with Old English to form Middle English**

[The Normans Conquest of England in 1066](#) was a key moment in the history of the English language. The Normans, who were originally from France, brought their French language with them when they conquered England. This French language then mixed with the existing Old English to form Middle English. This period marked the beginning of a long process of change for the English language, as it slowly began to diverge from its Germanic roots and become more like French. Over time, more and more words from other languages would be added to the English vocabulary, further changing its character. Today, English is truly a global language, spoken by millions of people around the world. It is truly fascinating to trace its origins back to that fateful day in 1066.

**Article:** [Utilizing Students' Cultural Backgrounds to Enhance English Learning](#)

### **4. Modern English began to take shape in the 15th century when printing presses were introduced to England**

[Modern English began to take shape in the 15th century when printing presses were introduced to England.](#) This new technology made it possible for books and other written materials to be mass-produced, which helped to spread the English language throughout the country. The first printed book in English, in England, was *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer, and by the 16th century, the English language had become the dominant vernacular in England. During the Renaissance period, many words from Latin and Greek were borrowed into English, and this increased the vocabulary of the language considerably. In addition, Shakespeare and other writers of this period helped to popularize certain phrases and expressions that are still used today. By the 17th century, Modern English was largely standardized, though regional dialects and accents continued to exist.

The English language has continued to evolve over the centuries, and today there are many different varieties of English spoken around the world. However, the roots of Modern English can be traced back to the 15th century, when printing presses were first introduced to England.



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## **5. The British Empire spread English all over the world, and it gradually became the global lingua franca**

The English language truly began to globalize during the Age of Exploration, when English sailors and traders traveled all over the world. [The British Empire](#) then spread English even further as it established colonies in all corners of the globe. English gradually became the lingua franca, or common language, of the world as more and more people learned it for business and trade.

Today, English is the official language of over 60 countries and is spoken by billions of people around the world. It truly is a global language! The establishment of the British Empire also played a significant role in spreading English around the globe. By the late 20th century, English had become the dominant language of international business, science, and politics.

## **6. Today, there are around 360 million native speakers of English and another 1.2 billion people who use it as a second language**

Interestingly, the English language has more speakers than any other language in the world. This is largely due to the fact that English has been adopted as an official language in many countries. For



example, English is the official language of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition, there are many countries where English is spoken as a second language. For example, in India and Singapore, English is one of the official languages.

Additionally, the popularity of English as a second language continues to grow, particularly in non-native English-speaking countries. It is estimated that there are around **1.5 billion speakers of English: 360 million native speakers of English and another 1.2 billion people who use it as a second language.**

Today, English is spoken as a first or second language in many countries around the world. It is also one of the official languages of the United Nations and many other international organizations. Additionally, English is used extensively in fields such as science, technology, business, and diplomacy. As a result of its global importance, efforts are continually being made to improve the teaching and learning of English as a second language.



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## Conclusion

The English language has a long and complex history that is often unclear and controversial. What is certain is that English began to develop in the British Isles during the 5th century AD, most likely as a result of the Roman Empire's collapse. During the 9th and 10th centuries, Viking invasions led to

the addition of many Old Norse words to the English vocabulary. In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England and brought with him French-speaking Normans. As a result, Norman French became the language of the nobility while the common people continued to speak English. This class division can still be seen today in the different vocabulary used by the British upper and lower classes. The English language truly began to globalize during the Age of Exploration, when English sailors and traders traveled all over the world. The establishment of the British Empire also played a significant role in spreading English around the globe. By the late 20th century, English had become the dominant language of international business, science, and politics. Today, there are around 1 billion native speakers of English and another 1 billion people who use it as a second language. Its popularity is due to its status as an official language in many countries and its usefulness in fields such as science, technology, business, and diplomacy. As the world continues to become more globalized, the English language is likely to become even more important.

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