

CONTENTS

List of figures	xi
Acknowledgements	xiii

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION	1
An external history of English	2
A1 Origins of English	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
A2 The history of English or the history of Englishes?	8
A2.1 Old English dialects	8
A2.2 The rise of West Saxon	9
A2.3 Dialect boundaries	10
A3 Language contact in the Middle Ages	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
A4 From Middle English to Early Modern English	16
A4.1 External influences on pronunciation	16
A4.2 The translation of the Bible into English	18
A5 The process of standardisation	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
A6 Colonialism, Imperialism and the spread of English	25
A6.1 English in the New World	25
A6.2 The expansion of the British Empire	26
A7 Moves towards Present Day English	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
A8	Global English and beyond	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

B1	Understanding Old English	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
B2	Varieties of Old English	44
B2.1	Old English and Scots	45
B2.2	Old English dialectal differences	45
B3	The emergence of Middle English	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
B4	Sound shifts	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
B5	Writing in Early Modern English	60
B5.1	Orthography in Early Modern English	61
B5.2	Some grammatical characteristics	62
B5.3	Expanding the lexicon	66
B6	The development of American English	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
B7	International English	70
B7.1	Australian English	70

B7.2	Indian English	72
B7.3	Pidgins and creoles on the West African coast	74
B8	The globalisation of English	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

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

SECTION D: EXTENSION	127
Readings in the history of English	128
D1 Vocabulary in Old English	128
D1.1 Other differences between Old English and Modern English (Bruce Mitchell)	128
D1.2 Issues to consider	133
D2 Old English dialects	134
D2.1 The study of Old English dialects (Joseph P. Crowley)	134
D2.2 Issues to consider	138
D3 The influence of French	139
D3.1 Who spoke French in England? (Douglas Kibbee)	139
D3.2 Issues to consider	143
D4 Changes in pronunciation	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
D5 'Fixing' the language	154
D5.1 The appeal to authority, 1650–1800 (Albert C. Baugh and Thomas Cable)	154
D5.2 Issues to consider	160
D6 The development of American English	160
D6.1 The beginnings of American (H. L. Mencken)	160
D6.2 Issues to consider	166
D7 A corpus approach to linguistic development	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
D8 The future of English?	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