

Table of Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>I Facts, Assumptions, and Misconceptions About Language</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>II The Sounds and Spelling of Current English</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>III Letters and Sounds: A Brief History of Writing</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>IV The Backgrounds of English</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>V The Old English Period (449–1100)</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>VI The Middle English Period (1100–1500)</i>	<i>152</i>
<i>VII The Modern English Period to 1800: Sounds and Spellings</i>	<i>181</i>

VIII	<i>The Modern English Period to 1800: Forms and Syntax</i>	195
IX	<i>Recent British and American English</i>	229
X	<i>New Words from Old: Coinages and Adaptations</i>	275
XI	<i>Foreign Elements in the English Word Stock</i>	313
XII	<i>Words and Meanings</i>	342
	<i>Selected Bibliography</i>	364
	<i>Index of Modern English Words, Affixes, and Phrases</i>	377
	<i>Subject Index</i>	399