The Indo-European Family of Languages

Indo-European

Centum Languages

Indo-Germanic

East German

Low German

High German

Manner, Middle English, old English

French, Provençal, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Romanian

Greek

Sidonian Languages

English

English cognates:

<table>
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<th>English</th>
<th>Old English</th>
<th>Modern English</th>
<th>Old High German</th>
<th>Modern High German</th>
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<tr>
<td>one</td>
<td>ein</td>
<td>een</td>
<td>ein</td>
<td>een</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>three</td>
<td>driel</td>
<td>driel</td>
<td>dra</td>
<td>dra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mother</td>
<td>muster</td>
<td>moeder</td>
<td>moder</td>
<td>moder</td>
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<tr>
<td>father</td>
<td>vater</td>
<td>vader</td>
<td>fader</td>
<td>fader</td>
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<tr>
<td>brother</td>
<td>bruder</td>
<td>broder</td>
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<tr>
<td>sister</td>
<td>schwester</td>
<td>zusieg</td>
<td>syster</td>
<td>soster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Words could be grouped by similarities.

*Old English and Old German were closer to each other than Modern English and Modern German.
### TABULAR HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Period</th>
<th>Historical Events</th>
<th>Linguistic Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>About 3000 B.C.</td>
<td>Neolithic Age; Indo-Europeans living in north central Europe.</td>
<td>Indo-European undifferentiated, except dialectally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3000-500 B.C.</td>
<td>Indo-European migrations from India, Greece, and western Europe.</td>
<td>Extensive documentation in Sanskrit, Greek, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>500-0 B.C.</td>
<td>Celts in Britain. Contact of Roman Empire with Germanic peoples.</td>
<td>Germanic undifferentiated except dialectally. First borrowings from Latin.</td>
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<td>0-500 A.D.</td>
<td>West Germanic</td>
<td>Differentiation of West, North, and East branches of Germanic. Continued Latin borrowings.</td>
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<td>1300-1475</td>
<td>Hundred Years' War. Growth of nationalism; decay of feudalism. Chaucer, Gower, Langland, &quot;Gerald of Wales&quot;. Wycliffe, Mystery and Morality plays.</td>
<td>Emergence of English (dialect of London) as the standard literary and official language. Extensive borrowings from French.</td>
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HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NOTES

Linguistic Concepts to Remember:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Sample A:
Old English (Anglo-Saxon) trans. unknown

1. Hé cwæd, sopplice sum man hæfde
twegen suna;
2. bæ cwæð sē gingra to his Fæder,
3. Fæder, sylfe mē minne dæl minre achte hē
4. mē to geþyreþ: bæ dæle hē him his æhte.
5. Dē after feawun dagum ealle his hing
gegaderude sē gingra sunu, and féreð
6. wælce on feorlæ rīce, and forspilde
7. þær his æhta, lybbende on his geðsan.
8. Dæ hē hig hæfde ealle ēmyrrede, þā wærs
9. mycel hunger on ðám rīce, and he wær
10. wælþæla.

Sample B:
Although the oldest known manuscript of Beowulf was damaged by fire in 1731, other copies have enabled scholars to reconstruct the poem. Here set in modern type, is a translation of the first reconstructed lines.

| 1 | HWÆT, WE GAR-Dēn in gēardagum, |
| 2 | þéocynnings þrym gefrūn, |
| 3 | hū þē æpelingas eallæ fremedon! |
| 4 | Oft Scyld Scēching sceapena þrēnum, |
| 5 | monēgum mǣgbam meodosēla offēh, |
| 6 | ægode earl[es], mēōgan ērēt wærd |
| 7 | fēæscēft funden; hē þēs frōþre gebēd, |
| 8 | wēþ under wilcūnum wœordūndum þāh, |
| 9 | ðo þā him ðēhwaelic wæmbtēndra |
| 10 | ofer hlæðrēr hīrān scēlda, |
| 11 | gornban gīldan; þā wēs god cieþing! |

Influences on Old English:
1. 
2. 
3. 

Characteristics of Old English:
1. Letters ðæ = ______  þ = ______  ð = ______  g = ______  sc = ______
1. Old English
1) Fader ure þu þe eart on hefonum;
2) Si þin nama gehalgod
3) to become þin rice
4) gewurþe ðin willa
5) on eordan swa swa on hefonum.
6) urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg
7) and forgyf us ure gyltas
8) swa swa we forgyfæ urum gyltendum
9) and ne gelæd þu us on costnunge
10) ac alys us of yfele soplice.

(Corpus Christi College MS 140, ed. Liuzza (1994))

2. Modern English
1) Our Father, Who art in heaven,
2) Hallowed by Thy name;
3) Thy kingdom come;
4) Thy will be done
5) On earth as it is in heaven.
6) Give us this day our daily bread;
7) And forgive us our trespasses,
8) As we forgive those who trespass against us.
9) And lead us not into temptation,
10) But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Source: “A” Maria,” Commissariat of the Holy Land, Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC, 1936

3. German
1) Unser Vater im Himmel,
2) dein Name werde geheiligt,
3) dein Reich komme,
4) dein Wille geschehe
5) wie im Himmel, so auf der Erde.
6) Gib uns heute das Brot, das wir brauchen.
7) Und erlaß uns unsere Schulden,
8) wie auch wir sie unseren Schuldern erlassen haben
9) Und führte uns nicht in Versuchung,
10) sondern rette uns vor dem Bösen.


Contributor: William Lundin <wistan@algonet.se>

4. Latin
1) Pater noster qui es in caelis:
   father our who art in heavens
2) sanctifecetur nomen tuum.
   be-hallowed name thy
3) Adveniat regnum tuum.
   come kingdom thy
4) Fiat voluntas tua,
   be-done will thy
5) sicut in caelo et in terra.
   as in heaven and on earth.
6) Panem nostrum quotidii num da nobis hodie.
   bread our daily give us today
7) Et dimite nobis debita nostra,
   and forgive us debts our
8) sicut et nos dimittimus debitoris nostris.
   as and we forgive debtors our
9) Et ne nos inducas in temptationem,
   and not us lead into temptation
10) sed libera nos a male. Quoniam tibi est
    but free us from evil for to-thee is
    regnum et potestas et gloria in saecula
    kingdom and power and glory into ages.

Source: “A Panorama of 1-4th European Languages”
E-mail jdyer@lincolnberean.org

5. Swedish
1) Vår fader, du som är i himlen.
2) Låt ditt namn bli helgat.
3) Låt ditt rike komma.
4) Låt din vilja ske,
5) på jorden så som i himlen.
6) Ge oss i dag vårt bröd för dagen som kommer.
7) Och förlåt oss våra skulder,
8) liksom vi har förlåtit dem som står i skuld till oss.
9) Och utsätt oss inte för prövning,
10) utan rädda oss från det onda.
   [Ditt är riket. Din är makten och åran i evighet.]

(Nya testamentet, 1981)

6. French
1) Notre Père qui es aux cieux!
2) Que ton nom soit sanctifié;
3) que ton règne vienne
4) que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel.
5) Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain quotidien;
6) pardonne-nous nos offenses,
7) comme nous aussi nous pardonnons à ceux qui nous ont ofenées;
8) ne nous induis pas en tentation,
9) mais délivre-nous du malin.
10) Car c'est à toi qu'appartient, dans tous les siècles,
11) le règne, la puissance et la gloire.
   Amen!

Source: The Louis Segond translation -1910

Contributed by Jeffrey L. Dyer
E-mail jdyer@lincolnberean.org
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1. Fæ der ūre,
2. þū þe eart on heofonum,
3. si þin nama gehālgod.
4. Tobecum þin rice.
5. Gewurpe ð in willa on eordan swa swa on heofonum.
6. Urne gedā ghwāmlīcan hlāf syle ðūs tō dā g.
7. And forgýf ðūs ūre gyltas, swā swā ðwe forgýfað urum glytendum.
8. And nē gel ðē d þūs on costnunge,

2

A. Oure fadir that art in heuenes, halewid be thi name; thi
B. kyngdoom come to; be thi wille don in erthe as in heuene;
C. 3yue to vs this dai ourbre ouer othir substauence; and
D. for3yue to vs ourde dettis, as we for3yue to vs ourde dettouris;
E. and lede vs not in to temptacioun, but delyuere vs fro yuel.

3

U. Our Father, which art in heauen, hallowed be thy Name.
V. Thy kingdome come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in
W. heauen.
X. Giue us this day our dayly bread.
Y. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debters.
Z. And leade us not into temptation, but deliuer us from euill.
Poetry

**Middle English**

**The Pardoner**

1. For looke peple heven tales alyce:
   Swich thinges they can wel reporte and holde.
   What, trowe ye, that theyles I may preche,
   And winne gold and siluer for I reche.

5. That I wol live in povert wilfullwy:
   Nay, nay, nay, I thought it never werely.
   For I wol preche and begge in somery londe;
   I wol not do no labour with myn hondes.
   Ne make bassettes and live therby.

10. Because I wol nat begge idelly:
   I wol nom of the apostles counterfeite;
   I wol have money, wolfe, cheve, and whathe,
   Al were it yeven of the povertest page.
   Or of the povertest wif in a vilage.

15. Al sholde hir children serve for famyne.
   Nay, I wol drinke licour of the syne
   And have a joly wench in every town.
   But heketh, lordes, in conclusioun:
   Your lykying is that I shall telle a tale.

20. Now have I drounke a draught of corny ale.
   By God, I hope I shol yow telle a thing
   That shal, be resoun, been at your lykying.
   For, though myselfe I shul be ful vicius man,
   A moral tale yet I shal telle you.

25. Which I am wont to preche, for to winne.
   Now holde your pees, my tale I wol beginne.

Here begins the Pardoner's Tale

In Flandres whylem was a company
Of yonge folk that haunteden sytys.
As sytys, hatredes, stews, and tavernes.

30. Whereas, with harpes, lutes, and giternes.
They dancen and plie at desy bothe day and nyght.
And ete also and drinke over, hir might.

35. Thogh which they doon the devel sacrifyse
Within that devels temple, in cursed wyse.

By superstitie abominable:
Hir cries been so grete and so damnable
That it is griste for to here hym sware:
Our blessed Lordes body they toter—

they thonketh Jews renne him nought ymough.

40. And ech of hem at othere stanes lough.

**Modern English**

**The Pardoner**

1. For ignorant people love old tales:
   Such things they can easily repeat and remember.
   What? Do you think that while I can preach
   And win gold and silver for my teaching.

5. That I will intentionally live in poverty?
   No, no, I certainly never considered that.
   For I will preach and beg in various lands.
   I will not labor with my hands,
   Or live by making baskets.

10. In order to keep from being an idle beggar.
   I don't want to imitate any of the apostles.
   I want to have money, wool, cheese, and wheat,
   Even if it is given by the poorest page,
   Or the poorest widow in a village.

15. Although her children die of starvation.
   Not I will drink liquor of the vine
   And have a jolly wench in every town.
   But listen, my lords, in conclusion:
   Your wish is for me to tell a tale.

20. Now that I have had a drink of strong ale,
   By God, I hope I shall tell you something
   That shall, be reason, be to your liking.
   For although I am myself a very vicious man,
   Yet I can tell you a moral tale.

25. Which I am accustomed to preach for profit.
   Now hold your peace, I will begin my tale.

Here begins the Pardoner's Tale

In Flanders once there was a company
Of young folk who devoted themselves to such follies
As riotous living, gambling, and taverns,
Where they danced and played dice both night and day.

30. Where, with harps, lutes, and guitars
    They danced and played at dance day and night,
    And also ate and drank more than they could handle,
    And thus they offered sacrifices to the devil
    Within the devil's temple, in a curved manner.

35. Through abominable overindulgence;
    Their oaths were so great and so damnable
    That it was grisly to hear them say.
    They tore our blessed Lord's body to pieces—
    It seemed to them that the Jews had not torn him enough.

40. And each of them laughed at the others' sins.

**Prose**

**Modern English**

1. Times. For ignorant people love old tales; they can easily remember and repeat such things. Why, do you think that I would willingly live in poverty as long as I can preach and win gold and silver by my teaching? No, no. I never really considered that. For I will preach and beg in various countries, but I will do no labor with my hands, or live by making baskets to keep from being an idle beggar. I will not copy any one of the apostles; I will have money, wool, cheese, and wheat, even though it's given to me by the poorest page or widow in a village, whose children will consequently starve. No, I'll drink liquor from the vine and have a jolly wench in every town. But listen, my lords, in conclusion:

20. Your desire is that I tell a story. Now that I have drunk a draught of malty ale, I hope, by God, that I can tell you something which you will like reasonably well. For, though I am a very vicious man myself, I can tell you a moral tale which I am accustomed to preach for profit. Now hold your peace, I shall begin my tale.

30. Here begins The Pardoner's Tale!
    Once upon a time in Flanders there was a group of young people much given to dissipation, such as riotous living, gambling, and frequenting brothels and taverns, where they danced and played dice both night and day.

35. To the music of harps, lutes, and guitars, and also ate and drank beyond their capacities. In this way they wickedly performed the devil's work within that devil's temple through abominable excess. Their oaths were so great and so damnable that it was terrifying to hear them say. They tore apart the body of our blessed Lord—it seemed to them that the Jews had not tortured him enough—and each of them laughed at the others' sins. And then small and shapeless dancing girls would enter, and young girls selling fruit, singers with harps, bawds, and cake-sellers—all the confirmed agents of the devil—to kindle and blow the fire of lust that goes hand in hand with gluttony.
II. Middle English: 11th - 15th century (1066-1470)

Sample A:

Middle English (Chaucer's time) trans. Wyclif

A man hadd two sones; and pe songer of hem seide unto his fadir: Fadir, syn ve me a porcioun of pe substance pat fallit me. And pe fadir departide him his goodis. And soone aftir, bis songe sone gederide al pat fel to him, and wente forb in pilgrimage in to a fer contre; und ber we wastide his goodis, lyvyng in lecherie. And after pat he hadde endid alle his goodes ber fel a gret hunge in pat lond, and he bogan to be nedy.

Influences on Middle English

Characteristics of Middle English

1. Pronunciation
   a. Long vowels  
      a, aa  
      e, ee  
      i, y  
      o, oo  
      u, ou, ow
   b. Final e
   c. Consonants pronounced separately

2. Grammar
   a. Personal pronouns (see chart)
   b.
   c.
   d.

3. Vocabulary
   a.
   b.
   c.

Sample B:

For lewed peple lewen tales olde:  
Swich thynge can they wel retewe and holde.  
What, trowe ye, that whyshes I may proche,  
And winne gold and silver for I retche,

That I wol live in pover tyllfully
Nay, nay, I thoughte it never trewe,  
For I wol preche and begge in sondry londes  
I wol not do no labour with myn hondes,  
Ne make bcasttes and live therby,

Because I wol nat beggen ydeli,  
I wol non of the apostles counterfeites  
I wol have money, wolle, cheve, and whathe,  
Al were it yeven of the poverst page.

Or of the poverst widwe in a villagen  
Al sholdhe his childe renne for tyme  
May I wol drinke licour of the wyn  
And have a joly wencne in every toun.

But hekeneth, lordinges, in conclouision;  
Your lyking is that I shal telle a tale.

Now have I dronke a draughte of corne ale  
By God, I hope I shal yow telle a thing
That shal, by reason, bee at your lyking.  
Fow, though my self be a ful vicius man,  
A morall tale yet I yow telle can.

Which I am wont to preche, for to winne.

Now holde your pees, my tale I wol beginne.

Here beginneth the Pardoner's Tale

In Flandres whole was a companye  
Of yonge folk that hauent hauent holye,  
As syr, hussard, stewe, and taverneres,  
Whereas, with harples, lutes, and githernes,  
They daunce and playe at desse brete day and nit  
And ete also and drinke on ouer his sight.  
Ther thik thay dowen the devill sacrifise  
Within that devellis temeple, in cursed wyse.

By superfluicse abominable;  
His othes been so grete and so damnable  
That it is gristly lor to here hem sere,  
Our blissed lorde body the to terre--  
Hem thoughthe Jewes renne him nought y-nough,

And ech of hem at othere stane lough.
III. Early Modern English: 15th - late 17th century (1470-1660)

Sample A

Our Father, which art in heauen, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in
heauen.
Give us this day our dayly bread.
And forgiue us our debts, as we forgiue our debters.
And leade us not into temptation, but deliuer us from auill.

Influences on Early Modern English

- Shakespeare
- King James Bible
- Printing Press

Characteristics of Early Modern English

- no gender
- stand spell
- fewer contractions

A to Z: Some Words First Used by Shakespeare

A - advertising.
B - bandit.
C - critic.
D - dickens.
E - epileptic.
F - film.
G - gossip.
H - bush.
I - investment.
J - jay
K - kissing.
L - luggage.
M - manager.
N - numb.
O - obscene.
P - puke.
Q - quarrelsome.
R - rant.
S - shooting star.
T - torture.
U - undress.
V - varied.
W - wild-goose chase
X - Xantippe.
Y - yelping.
Z - zany.

IV. Modern English: late 17th century --> (1660 - present)

Influences on Modern English

Characteristics of Modern English
1709–1784

Many readers know Samuel Johnson only through the biography written by his contemporary and ardent admirer, James Boswell. That is unfortunate, because the Samuel Johnson who revealed himself through his writings is a man with much to say to a variety of subjects—a man who, despite the excellence of Boswell’s portrait, is best read firsthand. During his own lifetime, Johnson was widely recognized as the most influential literary figure of his day as well as a brilliant and witty conversationist. Indeed, the second half of the eighteenth century is often called the Age of Johnson.

Johnson’s success was hard won. The son of a bookseller in Lichfield, a small town near Birmingham, he grew up in poverty. He described himself as a “poor diseased infant.” A series of childhood illnesses left him physically weak and sociably disinclined as a brilliant child who read Hamlet at the age of eight, Johnson feared that Insanity would deprive him of his only advantage, his intellect. He entered Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1728 but was forced to leave after fourteen months because of a lack of funds. For six years thereafter, until deciding to pursue a literary career in earnest, he was a Lichfield bookseller and schoolmaster, reading widely and occasionally working on translations. At the age of twenty-six, he married a widow much older than he, to whom he remained devoted until her death.

In 1737 he moved to London. Despite critical praise for his early writing, he failed to gain a large audience. It was Johnson’s Dictionary of the English Language, published in 1755, that earned him a permanent place in English letters. For the next two years, he wrote “The Idler,” a series of articles for a weekly newspaper, and completed one of his best-loved works, Rasselas, a moral romance. Johnson was awarded an annual pension of 300 pounds in 1762, which made him something of a man of leisure. The next year he married twenty-three-year-old James Boswell met for the first time in the back parlor of Tom Davies’s bookshop. It was a fateful meeting, one that led, after many further meetings, to Boswell’s The Life of Johnson, a book generally regarded as the finest biography of its kind. In 1765 Johnson published an acclaimed edition of Shakespeare. His last important work, The Lives of the Poets, appeared in ten volumes between 1779 and 1781. It is a group of fifty-two critical biographies that cover about 200 years of English literary history. Late in his life Johnson received honorary degrees from Oxford and from Trinity College, Dublin—thus the “Dr.” that often precedes his name. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

When Johnson began working on the Dictionary, he had fond dreams about the fun he would have preparing it. But what he hoped would be fun soon became drudgery. Johnson thought the work would take three years. In fact it took nine.

Johnson worked hard to achieve accuracy, but soon encountered the problems which face all students: “I saw my only enemy only gave occasion to another, that book referred to book, that search was not always to find, and find was not always to be informed by the writer.”

With no tradition of dictionary-making to rely on, Johnson usually had to strike out on his own, establishing spellings in a time (and in Chinese and in Japanese) that was difficult. And for an era lacking anything like an encyclopedia, as times he tried to offer extended background information (see Druggist and Pharmacist).

Johnson gave vent to his fatigue and exasperation in his dea stances of dull, grumbler, and lexicographer. And the most famous aspect of Johnson’s Dictionary today is its famous name: The Dictionary of the English Language.
poetry. (A cant term. Derived. I suppose, from an Irish word signifying a savage.) One who adheres to the ancient constitution of the state, and the apostatical hierarchy of the church of England, opposed to a whig. 3

whig. (2) The name of a faction.

writicism. A mean attempt at wit.

to norm. (2) To deprive a dog of something. Nobody knows what, under his tongue, which is said to prevent him. Nobody knows why. from running mad. 4

3. whig. Johnson himself was a Tory

stable thoughts. Strong of t: gorous, lusty; robust.
Science distinguishes... man of honor from one of those athletic brutes, whom undeservedly we call heroes. Dryden.

hang. A blow: a thump; a stroke: a low word.
I am a bachelor. That's to say, they are fools that marry, you'll bear me a hang for that. Shakespeare, Julius Caesar.

be barbox. A term used in the West Indies for dressing a hog whole; which, being split to the backbone, is laid flat upon a large griddle, raised about two feet above a charcoal fire, with which it is surrounded. Oldfield, with more than harpy throat endued. Cries, send me, gods, a whole hog barbecued. Pope.

be'stabbed. A man with a large head, like a buffalo; dirt; stupid; foolish.

cream. The unctuous or oily part of milk, which, when it is cold, floats on the top, and is changed by the agitation of the churn into butter; the flower of milk.

electricity. A property in some bodies, whereby, when rubbed so as to grow warm, they draw little bits of paper, or such like substances, to them. Quincy.

Such was the account given a few years ago of electricity; but the industry of the present age, first excited by the experiments of Gray, has discovered in electricity a multitude of philosophical wonders. Bodies electrified by a sphere of glass, turned nimbly round, not only emit flame, but may be fitted with such a quantity of the electrical vapor as, if discharged at once upon a human body, would endanger life. The force of this vapor has hitherto appeared instantaneous, persons at both ends of a long chain seeming to be struck at once. The philosophers are now endeavoring to intercept the strokes of lightning.

to fanace. To throw out as sparks from a furnace. A bad word.

He fans aces.
The thick sighs from him. Shakespeare's Cymbeline.

gang. A number herding together: a troop; a company; a tribe; a herd. It is seldom used but in contempt or abhorrence.

ha'item-faces. An ugly face; such. I suppose, as might be hew'd with a block by a hatchet.

An ape to whom dear image will embrace.
An ugly beast adores a hatchet face.

lifeguards. The guard of a king's person.

modern. In Shakespeare, vulgar; mean; common.
We have our philosophical persons to make modern and familiar things supernatural and causeless. Shakespeare.

p'weak. One who countenances, supports, or protects. Commonly a wretch who supports with insolence, and is paid with flattery.

p'cible. Condition; state. A word of contempt and ridicule.
How can't though in this pickle? Shakespeare.

plump. Something worn in the mouth to swell out the cheeks.
She des'trously his plumpers draws. That serve to fill her hollow jaws. Swift's Miscellanies.

shill-I-shall-I. A corrupt reduplication of shall? The question of a man hesitating. To stand shall-I-shall-I, is to continue hesitating and procrastinating.
I am somewhat dainty in making a resolution, because when I make it, I keep it; I don't stand shall-I-shall-I then; if I say't, I'll do't. Congreve's Way of the World.

to sneeze. To emit wind audibly by the nose.

wit'ow. A tree worn by forlorn lovers.

to wipe. To cheat; to defraud.
The next bordering lords commonly encroach one upon another, as one is stronger, or he still in wait to wipe them out of their lands. Spenser, On Ireland.

younger, you'aker. A young person. In contempt.

youth. The part of life succeeding to childhood and adolescence; the time from fourteen to twenty-eight.
Our crazy English . . .

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes; but the plural of ox became oxen not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, yet the plural of mose should never be meese. You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice; yet the plural of house is houses, not nise.

If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet, and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those, yet hat in the plural would never be hose, and the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren, but though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him, but imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim.

Some reasons to be grateful if you grew up speaking English:

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. At the Army base, a bass was painted on the head of a bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18. After a number of Novocain injections, my jaw got number.
19. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
20. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
21. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
22. I spent last evening evening out a pile of dirt.
Screwy pronunciations can mess up your mind! For example, if you have a rough cough, climbing can be tough when going through the bough on a tree!

Let's face it; **English is a crazy language.**

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't even invented in England. French fries were not invented in France.

We take English for granted.

But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

If the teacher taught, why didn't the preacher prauht?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what the heck does a humanitarian eat?

We park on driveways and drive on parkways!

How can the weather be hot as hell on one day and cold as hell on another?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend?

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?

Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?

Have noses that run and feet that smell?

If Dad is Pop, how's come Mom isn't Mop?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers. And it reflects the creativity of the human race, which of course, is not a "race" at all.

That is why when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

And why is it that when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it!

**ENGLISH IS A CRAZY LANGUAGE!!!!**
The Fall of English

It wasn't surprising;
in fact, most knew it was imminent.
They knew they were ill-fated,
but they tried with desperation,
with despondency, despair, distress,
desolation to break through that brick and wire
fortress mocking their existence.
It was the waiting—
Thou, Thine, Thy, Thee—
waiting for their slow deaths
that must have been torture within itself.
They could only watch as Whom and Ere
jumped to grab the last rung
as the chopper lifted off the embassy.
Patiently, proudly, profoundly silent—
they prayed. They prayed
to Shakespeare and Johnson
while watching the imperial soldiers of Time
march into the streets. Those fading words
didn't even shout out
when Wherefore began to run
and was shot in the back of the head.
They didn't cry when Fie and Lo
were hanged in the village square,
Betwixt, burned at the stake.
They peered . . . between the bars
of their temporary prison.
They heard the final cry of Punctuation
They didn't even gasp when Capitalization
was drug across the sanguine streets
without a head
the inside of that prison was never sanguine
it was more of a quiet hopelessness
amidst the chaos the tumult; the confusion
one turned to the other
and solemnly stated
despair your charm he knew it wasn't right
but it seemed too vulgar
to speak of the deceased

—Brian Baker Russell