

Grand quiz for history

Of english

Lesson 10

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT OLD ENGLISH

The **Celts** called their Germanic conquerors Saxons indiscriminately, probably because they had their first contact with the **Germanic** peoples through the Saxon raids on the coast.

Early Latin writers, following Celtic usage, generally call the Germanic inhabitants of England Saxons and the land **Saxonia**.

But soon the terms **Angli** and **Anglia** occur beside Saxons and refer not to the Angles individually but to the West Germanic tribes generally.

Æthelbert, king of Kent, is styled Rex Anglorum by Pope Gregory in 601.

A century later, Bede called his history the **Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum**.

In time, **Angli** and **Anglia** become the usual terms in **Latin texts**.

From the beginning, however, writers in the **vernacular** never call their language anything but **Englisc (English)**.

The word is derived from the name of the **Angles** (OE Engle) but is used without distinction for the language of all the **invading tribes**.

The land and its people are early called Angelcyn.

From about the **year 1000**, England (land of the Angles) begins to take its place.

The name English is thus older than the name **England**.

The English language of today is the language that has resulted from the history of **the dialects** spoken by the **Germanic tribes** who came to England.

It is impossible to say how much the speech of the Angles **differed** from that of the Saxons or that of the Jutes.

The differences were certainly **slight**. Even after these dialects had been subjected to several centuries of **geographical and political separation** in England, the differences were not great.

English mainly belongs to the Low West Germanic branch of the **Indo-European family**.

The period from **450 to 1150** is known as Old English.

It is sometimes described as the period of **full inflections** because during most of this period the endings of the noun, the adjective, and the verb are preserved more or less unimpaired.

This period was over in the **twelfth century**.

From **1150 to 1500**, the language is known as **Middle English**.

By 700, the **Anglo-Saxons** had occupied most of **England** (the exceptions being Cornwall and an area in the north-west) and also a considerable part of southern Scotland

Wales remained a British stronghold.

The Germanic language of the incomers became the dominant one, and there are few traces of Celtic influence on Old English.

The number of Celtic words taken into English in the whole of its history has been very small. The names of some English towns were taken over from the Britons, for example London and Leeds. Among county names, Kent and Devon are Celtic.

Celtic names are common for villages.

Britons lived among the Anglo-Saxons. But their language quite possibly had no prestige compared with that of the Anglo-Saxons.

The Old English word 'wealh', which originally meant 'foreigner'

Essex, Middlesex, and Sussex were the realms of the East, Middle, and South Saxons.

Norfolk and Suffolk were the north and south folk of the East Angles.

In the seventh century, Northumbria was very powerful and great center of learning.

In the eighth century, this leadership passed to Mercia and in the ninth century to Wessex.

It was the king of Wessex who finally unified the country.

From tenth century onwards, the unity of England was durable: the king might be Danish, like Cnut, or half-English, like Edward the Confessor, or Norman French, like William the Conqueror.

Some evidence of pre-Christian traditions has, however, remained fossilized in the language.

The goddess 'Ēastre' has probably given her name to the Christian festival of Easter

The pagan deities named in the days of the week are also commemorated in place-names such as Tuesley, Wednesbury, and Thunderfield.

Pagan cult sites are attested by place-names like Harrow (OE hearh 'temple') and Wye in Kent (OE wīg 'idol, shrine').

The conversion of the English to Christianity began in about the year 600 and took a century to complete.

It was carried out from two directions, the Celtic church penetrating from the northwest and the Roman church from the south-east.

With Christianity came the Latin model of writing.

The English already had one form of writing, 'runes', but these were used only for short inscriptions, not for texts of any length.

Runes had been used by the Germanic peoples from at least the third century AD, for carving or scratching inscriptions on stone, metalwork, or wood.

It is unclear how and where the runic alphabet originated, but it has clear similarities with Greek and Italic alphabets.

The best-known inscriptions are the Scandinavian ones.

English in the seventh century developed a distinctive form of the runic alphabet which, from its first six letters, is known as the 'futhorc' (fuþorc).

When the clerics introduced writing to England, they used a version of the Latin alphabet

It is also common in modern editions to mark long vowels by putting a macron (short horizontal line) over them, while leaving the short vowels unmarked; the original OE manuscripts do not mark vowel-length.

Lesson 11

FEATURES OF OLD ENGLISH: PRONUNCIATION AND VOCABULARY

- ♣ Old English had a single phoneme consisting of a pair of voiced and voiceless allophones
- ♣ Modern English has two separate phonemes.
- ♣ The Old English arrangement was not inherited from Proto-Germanic, but arose in prehistoric Old English by processes of assimilation – the term came from assimilate or assimilated.
- ♣ Old English contains six vowel symbols a, e, i, o, u and y, and a seventh one, a, called ‘ash’.
- ♣ All these represent both long and short vowels.
- ♣ The vowel sounds of Old English, Early West Saxon are described in videos for practice.
- ♣ All the symbols represent pure vowels, not diphthongs.
- ♣ To represent diphthongs, the Anglo-Saxons used digraphs (sequences of two symbols): ‘ea, eo, io
- ♣ Old English script normally uses sixteen consonant symbols, which in modern editions are usually reproduced as ‘b, c, d, f, g, h, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, t, d and w’
- ♣ Old English had no symbol v: the symbol ‘f’ was used to represent both [f] and [v]. The reason is that, in Old English, [f] and [v] were members of the same phoneme: they were allophones.
- ♣ In Modern English spelling, we use double-consonant symbols in two-syllable words to show that the preceding vowel is short, but a single consonant symbol is used if the preceding vowel is long or is a diphthong
- ♣ The Old English words for ‘written’ and ‘copper’ are ‘writen’ and ‘copor
- ♣ We do find OE spellings with doubled consonants, like ‘hegoat’ and cuppe ‘cup’. In such words the double-consonant symbol indicates that the consonant was in fact pronounced double or long, rather as in Modern Italian or Modern Swedish.
- ♣ Old English made use of two characters to represent the sound of th: þ and ð, thorn and eth.
- ♣ In general, the differences that one notices between Old and Modern English concern spelling and pronunciation, the lexicon, and the grammar.
- ♣ From Proto-Indo-European, the Germanic languages had inherited many ways of forming new words, especially by the use of prefixes and suffixes.
- ♣ Old English formed new words by compounding.
- ♣ The difference is that an affix is a bound morpheme, whereas a compound word is formed by the joining of two or more free morphemes.

- ♣ Christianity related words were borrowed from Latin and Greek to English
- ♣ Sometimes existing words were simply transferred to Christian use, as with 'Easter, hell and holy.'
- ♣ Sometimes new words were coined from native elements.
- ♣ When the Norman Conquest brought French into England as the language of the higher classes, much of the Old English vocabulary appropriate to literature and learning died out.
- ♣ It was replaced later by words borrowed from French and Latin.

Lesson 12

THE GRAMMAR OF OLD ENGLISH

- ♣ One of the most obvious features of syntactic style in any language is the degree to which grammatical and semantic relationships are expressed by subordinate clauses.
- ♣ A high proportion of long sentences with subordination, as in the prose of Edward Gibbon or Henry James or the poetry of John Milton, is known as hypotactic style.
- ♣ On the contrary, shorter sentences and a higher proportion of principal clauses, as in the prose of Ernest Hemingway, are called paratactic style.
- ♣ Because of its inflectional system, old English had greater freedom of word-order than Modern English.
- ♣ The inflection of the Old English noun indicates distinctions of number (singular and plural) and case.

- ♣ **Case system** is somewhat **simpler** than that of Latin and some of the other Indo-European languages.
- ♣ Old English noun has only **four cases**.
- ♣ There is a vowel declension and a consonant declension, also called the **strong and weak declensions**.
- ♣ Old English shows the tendency not only in having **distinctive forms** for practically all genders, persons, and cases but also in preserving addition to the ordinary **two numbers**, singular and plural, a set of forms for two people or two things — the dual number.
- ♣ Indo-European had **separate forms** for the dual number in the verb as well, and these also appear in **Greek** and to a certain extent in **Gothic**.
- ♣ The distinction between the **dual and the plural** was disappearing even from the pronoun in **Old English**.
- ♣ An important feature of the Germanic languages is the development of a **twofold declension** of the adjective.
- ♣ One, the **strong declension** used with nouns when not accompanied by a **definite article** or similar word (such as a demonstrative or possessive pronoun)
- ♣ The **weak declension** is used when the noun is preceded by such a **word** (article, demonstrative or possessive pronoun)
- ♣ Old English possessed a **fully inflected** definite article.
- ♣ The inflection of the verb in the Germanic languages is much **simpler** than it was in Indo-European times.
- ♣ A comparison of the Old English verb with the verbal inflection of **Greek or Latin** will show how much has been lost.
- ♣ Old English distinguished only two **simple tenses** by inflection, a present and a past, and, except for **one word**, it had no **inflectional forms** for the passive as in Latin or Greek.
- ♣ A peculiar feature of the Germanic languages was the **division of the verb** into two great classes: Weak and strong and Regular and irregular (in Mod E)
- ♣ In some **verbs**, the vowels of the past tense and past participle are **identical**, as in *break, broke, broken*, and in some **all three forms** have become alike in modern times (*bid, bid, bid*).
- ♣ In Old English, the vowel of the **past tense** often differ in the **singular and the plural**, or, to be more accurate, the first and third person singular have one vowel while the second person singular and all persons of the **plural** have another.
- ♣ **Prefixes** in old English were a fertile resource in word building and particularly a feature in the formation of **verbs**.

Lesson 13

DISCUSSION ON SAMPLES OF OLD ENGLISH

- ❖ The literature of the Anglo-Saxons is the **richest** and the most significant of any preserved literatures among the early **Germanic people**.
- ❖ **Two types** of this literature were brought to England by the Germanic conquerors from their continental homes and preserved in **oral tradition**.
- ❖ It is influenced by reintroduction of **Christianity** into the southern part of the island at the end of the **sixth century**.
- ❖ Two streams mingle in Old English literature; these are **pagan** and the **Christian**. Both the traditions constantly overlay.
- ❖ In Old English, **thou and thee** were singular and **ye and you** were plural.
- ❖ In **Middle English** times the custom arose of using **ye/you** as a polite or deferential way of addressing a **single person**, and this usage spread; **thou and thee** gradually dropped out of use in everyday speech, and finally **disappeared** (except in some dialects, where they persist to this day).
- ❖ *Who* and *which* did exist in **Old English** (*hwā, hwilc*) but were *indefinite or interrogative* pronouns, not relatives.
- ❖ For the relative **function**, old English used the **indeclinable particle** 'te', or **the declinable pronoun** 'se' (*identical* in form with the definite article), or the two together.
- ❖ The stock of conventional **poetic diction** was very large because of the need for **alliteration**; there were numerous words for **warrior** (*beorn in the passage*), for weapons (*asc*), and for horse, ship, prince, etc.
- ❖ The words '**brittisc**' and '**brines**' do not have today's meaning. They refer to the Celtic tribes that used to inhabit **Britain**. In fact, 'brittisc' and 'wilsc' were one and the same language - **Brito- Welsh**. That is why the writer says that there are **five languages** and then appears to list six.

Lesson 14

MOVING TOWARDS MIDDLE ENGLISH: THE NORMAN CONQUEST (1066-1200)

- Norsemen and Normans: During the latter part of the **Old English period**, two different groups of non-English speakers invaded the country
- Both groups were **Scandinavian in origin**. Old Norse (ON) and Old French (OF)
- Normandy: on the northern coast of France, directly across from England, a district extending some **seventy-five miles** back from the Channel.
- The name is derived from the bands of **North-men** who settled there in the **ninth and tenth centuries**.
- A generation after, **Alfred** reached an agreement with the North-men in England
- At the time of the Norman Conquest, the civilization of Normandy was **French**.
- Æthelred (1002) married a **Norman** wife and during exile took refuge at the **duke of Normandy**.
- His son Edward, brought up in **France**, was more French than English.
- In **1042**, Edward the Confessor was restored to the throne and he supported Norman friends.
- Edward died childless; it led to the issue of choice of a successor. **Godwin**, earl of the West Saxon emerged as successor, but he was challenged by **William**, the duke of Normandy.
- **William** had won the battle of **Hastings**, but had not yet attained the English crown.
- When the Southeast of England was burnt and the citizens of London **surrendered**, he was crowned on **Christmas Day 1066**.
- William's victory at Hastings was more than a mere substitution of **one monarch** for another.
- Norman prelates were **gradually** introduced into all important positions in the church. For example, the two archbishops were Normans. Also, **English abbots** were replaced.
- In 1075, **13 out of 21 abbots** who signed the decrees of the Council of London were English. Interestingly **twelve years** later only **three** were left.

- For 200 years after the Norman Conquest, French remained the language of ordinary intercourse among the upper classes in England.
- French Spread Through Intermarriage
- Language of the masses was English.
- An instructive parallel to the bilingual character of England in this period is furnished by the example of Belgium, today.
- English kings spent time there. The Conqueror and his sons were in France for about half of their respective reigns
- Except for Henry I, no English king until Edward IV (1461–1483) sought a wife in England,
- The English nobility was an Anglo-French aristocracy.
- In (1072 – 1079) Wulfstan brought about some sort of spiritual federation between the monks of Worcester and six other English monasteries.
- Norman nobles identified themselves with their new country, founded monasteries, and chose burial in their adopted land rather than in Normandy.

Lesson 15

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGLISH IN MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD

- The change in conditions after 1200 led to the re-establishment of English during the period of 1200–1500.
- Shortly after 1200 conditions changed. England lost an important part of its possessions abroad.
- An anti-foreign movement in England culminated in the Hundred Years' War.
- In the fourteenth century, English won its way back into universal use, and in the fifteenth century French totally disappeared.
- The first link in the chain binding England to the continent was broken in 1204 when King John lost Normandy.
- John married Isabel of Angouleme (1200).
- As far as the reason of this marriage is concerned, he loved her and had certain political advantages in mind as well
- She was at the time formally betrothed to Hugh of Lusignan, the head of a powerful and ambitious family.
- Philip saw an opportunity, and summoned John (1202) to appear before his court at Paris.

- John said, as the king of **England** he was not subject to the jurisdiction of the **French court**.
- Philip proceeded at once to carry out the decision of the court and invaded **Normandy**
- Soon John's supporters deserted him, and finally **Normandy** was lost to the **English crown**.
- **Henry I** confiscated the English estates of unruly Norman barons.
- But in 1204, the process of separation was greatly accelerated, for by a decree of **1204–1205** the **king of France** announced that he had confiscated the lands of several great barons.
- An incident in **1244** sped up the process. This was the address of king of France. He asserted: 'As it is impossible that any man living in my **kingdom**, and having possessions in **England**
- After 1250, there was no reason for the nobility of England to consider itself anything but **English**, and the most valid reason for its use of **French was gone**.
- The course of **Henry III's** long reign (1216–1272), the country was eaten up by **strangers**.
- Even **London** was full to overflowing not only of Poitevins, Romans, and Provengals but also of Spaniards who did great injury to the English. Thus, French **reinforcement** took place.
- The **thirteenth century** must be viewed as a period of shifting emphasis upon the **two languages** spoken in England.
- The **upper classes** continued for the most part to speak **French**, It was supported by **social custom** and by **business** and administrative convention.
- The active interference of France in England's efforts to control Scotland led **Edward III** to finally put forth a claim to the **French throne** and to invade France.
- The great victories of the English at **Crécy (1346) and Poitiers (1356)** fanned English patriotism to a white heat.
- In the reign of **Henry V**, England again enjoyed a brief period of success notably in the victory against great **odds at Agincourt (1415)**.
- But the success did not continue after the young king's **death**, and the exploits of **Joan of Arc (1429)** marked the beginning of the end.
- French was the language of an enemy country **Hundred Years' War** is probably to be reckoned as one of the causes contributing to the **disuse of French**.
- Since importance of a language largely depends upon the importance of people who **speak** it;
- It was in the summer of **1348** that in the Southwest of England, first case of this **plague** was reported.
- The Black Death spread rapidly over the rest of the country, reaching its height in **1349.40** percent of the **parish clergy** died of the plague.
- Death rate during the plague approximated **30 percent**.
- Mortality rate was greatest among the lower social orders.because their **life style was poor**
- It culminated in the Peasants' Revolt of **1381**
- There was an increase in the economic importance of the **laboring class**.
- There was also an increase in the importance of the **English language** which they spoke.
- **By 1250**, there had grown up in England about two hundred towns with populations from **1,000 to 5,000**; some like London or York were larger.

Lesson 16

MIDDLE ENGLISH IN 14TH AND 15TH CENTURIES

- Result of or impact of the Black Death, English spread rapidly in the monasteries. Death of **forty-seven monks** and abbot St.
- Albans in **1349** also added to the speed of spread
- there was a shift of **writers** from French to English.
- Romances owned by **Richard II in 1385** were in French, but he spoke English fluently.
- Robert of Brunne, who wrote his **Chronicle in 1338**, implies that French is chiefly the language of two groups, the educated classes and the French.
- Remark of an editor of a **chronicle written** in French (**1381**) is very apt as he said: 'it is the French of a man who is obviously **thinking in English.**'
- **French** was the language of lawyers and the law courts down to **1362.**
- French was the language of conversation in the monasteries of St. **Augustine at Canterbury and St. Peter at Westminster.**
- **Chaucer's** prioress spoke French, though she told her tale to the **Canterbury** pilgrims in **English**
- Edward III called a parliament in **1337** to advise him about his claim to the throne of France, the lawyer addressed in **English,**
- **It was in 1362 that the Chancellor opened Parliament for the first time with a speech in English**
- It was in **1388** Parliament required all guilds to submit a report in English.
- In **1356**, the mayor and aldermen of London ordered the proceedings to be in **English**
- A statement of **Ranulph Higden** in the fourteenth century shows that in his day the use of French in the schools was quite general.
- At the end of the first book of his **Polychronicon** (c. 1327), a universal history widely circulated, he attributes the corruption of the English language which he observes in part to this cause.
- **After 1349** English began to be used in the schools and by **1385** the practice had become **general.**
- In 1400, **George Dunbar**, earl of March wrote to the king in English: 'And, noble Prince, marvel ye not that I write my letters in English, for that is more clear to my understanding than **Latin** or **French.**'
- Another case was of a letter from **Richard Kingston**, dean of Windsor, who addressed the king (1403).
- An incident that occurred in **1404** seems at first sight to offer an extreme case.
- **The king of France had refused to recognize Henry IV when he seized the English throne.**
- In negotiations, the **English ambassadors** complained about the use of French. They asked to use Latin. Twice they spoke of French as being as unknown as **Hebrew.**

- Before middle of 15th century, it was necessary to have a 'Secretary in the French language' among the government officials
- . By the end of the century, Caxton could write: 'For the mooste quantyte of the people vnderstonde not latyn ne frensshe here in this noble royaume of england.'
- John Barton wrote a '*Donet François*', a treatise intended for adults who wished to learn French.

Lesson 17

FEATURES OF MIDDLE ENGLISH: WRITING AND PRONUNCIATION

- ✿ Modern languages began to encroach upon writing in Latin at a time when French was still the language of the educated and the socially prominent.
- ✿ French is the first language in England to dispute the monopoly of Latin in written matter.
- ✿ In the fifteenth century, English succeeds in displacing both.
- ✿ In private and semi-official correspondence, French is at its height at about 1350.
- ✿ After 1450, English letters are everywhere the rule.
- ✿ About 1430, a number of towns translated their ordinances and their books of customs into English.
- ✿ English becomes general in their transaction after 1450.
- ✿ The literature written in England during the Middle English period reflects the changing fortunes of English.
- ✿ Literature is a mirror of times and also a mirror of language/s used during the times.
- ✿ The literature in English that has come down to us from this period (1150–1250) is almost exclusively religious.
- ✿ The period from 1350 to 1400 is a period of 'Great Individual Writers.'
- ✿ Geoffrey Chaucer (1340–1400) is the greatest English poet before Shakespeare.
- ✿ He is famous for his *The Canterbury Tales*.
- ✿ The varieties of the tales provide a veritable anthology of medieval literature.
- ✿ Many changes in pronunciation took place in the transition from Old to Middle English.
- ✿ Middle English phonology is necessarily somewhat speculative.
- ✿ OE spellings were phonetic rather than conventional.
- ✿ Late OE and Early ME vowel-lengthening happened in Late Old English period but became apparent in ME period.
- ✿ In writing, the West Saxon literary tradition was continued for long.

- ✿ Norman scribes disregarded traditional English spelling. They spelt the language as they heard it, and used conventions of Norman French.
- ✿ The symbol *ȝ* was introduced for the stops represented by OE *ȝ*, and the OE symbol was retained only for the fricatives.

Lesson 18

THE GRAMMAR OF MIDDLE ENGLISH

- ♥ The Middle English period (1150–1500) was marked by momentous changes in the English language.
- ♥ These changes were more extensive and fundamental than those that have taken place at any time before or since.
- ♥ Changes in the grammar reduced English from a highly inflected language to an extremely analytic one.
- ♥ The loss of a large part of the Old English word-stock and also the addition of thousands of words from French and Latin.
- ♥ In early Middle English, only two methods of indicating the plural remained fairly distinctive.
- ♥ At that time, it was difficult to predict that the '-s' would become the almost universal sign of the plural that it has become.
- ♥ Until the thirteenth century, the *'-en' plural* enjoyed great favor in the south
- ♥ A plural *'tho' (those)* was survived to Elizabethan times
- ♥ . All the other forms indicative of different gender, number, and case disappeared in most of the dialects early in the Middle English period
- ♥ . Overall, nouns and pronouns were simplified. It relied more upon juxtaposition, word order, and the use of prepositions to make clear the relation of words in a sentence.
- ♥ In the adjective, the leveling of forms had even greater consequences. Partly as a result of the sound-changes that took place over time, partly through the extensive working of analogy.
- ♥ The form of the nominative singular was early extended to all cases of the singular.
- ♥ In the same way, the nominative plural to all cases of the plural is both in the strong and the weak declensions.
- ♥ The result was that in the weak declension there was no longer any distinction between the singular and the plural: both ended in *-e (blinda > blinde and blindan > blinde)*
- ♥ By 1250 the strong declension had distinctive forms for singular and plural only in certain monosyllabic adjectives which ended in a consonant in Old English.

- ♥ Under the circumstances the only ending which remained to the adjective was often without distinctive grammatical meaning.
- ♥ The principal changes in the verb during this were the serious losses suffered by the strong conjugation
- ♥ New verbs formed from nouns and adjectives or borrowed from other languages were regularly conjugated as weak.
- ♥ Nearly a third of the strong verbs in OE died out early in the ME period.
- ♥ Ninety of them have left no traces in written records after 1150.
- ♥ It was natural that many speakers should apply the pattern of weak verbs to some of the verbs which were historically strong.
- ♥ One of the consequences of the decay of inflections was the elimination of grammatical gender.
- ♥ The gender of Old English nouns was not often determined by meaning.
- ♥ The gender of nouns in Old English was not so generally indicated by the declension as it was a norm in a language like Latin.
- ♥ These by their distinctive endings generally showed, at least in the singular, whether a noun was masculine, feminine, or neuter
- ♥ The inflections of these gender-distinguishing words were reduced to a single ending for the adjective.
- ♥ The weakening of inflections and the confusion and loss of the old gender proceeded in a remarkably parallel course.

Lesson 19

VOCABULARY OF MIDDLE ENGLISH AND MOVING TOWARDS STANDARDIZATION

- Leveling of inflections resulted in syntactic and semantic relationships that had been signaled by the endings on words – now became ambiguous
- In Old English, the grammatical functions of two consecutive nouns were clear from their endings, say, in the nominative and dative cases
- Whereas in Middle English their functions might become uncertain.
- The most direct way to avoid this kind of ambiguity is through limiting the possible patterns of word order.
- The process of development can be seen in the Peterborough Chronicle.
- Peterborough Chronicle was written in installments from 1070 to 1154.
- This text of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle spans the period from Old English to Early Middle English.
- Certain idioms and syntactic usages that appear in Middle English are clearly the result of such contact.
- Norman Conquest removed authority that a standard variety of English would have and made it easier for grammatical changes to go forward unchecked.
- Loss of inflections and simplification of grammar was indirectly due to the use of French.
- The two languages lived side by side for such a long time and had such intimate relations that a considerable transference of words from one language to the other was natural and expected.
- **WORDS CAME IN ENGLISH FROM FRENCH ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLE**

Fashion, Meals, and Social Life	Government and Administration	Domestic	Army	Art and	Science	Law
---------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------	------	---------	---------	-----

		Life	and Navy	Medicine		
: fashion, dress, apparel, gown, robe, garment, attire, cape , cloak, coat, frock, collar, veil, train, petticoat, embroidery, pleat, buckle, button, tassel, plume etc. colors: blue, brown, scarlet, saffron, russet, and tawny. Jewel, ornament, brooch, ivory, enamel turquoise, amethyst, topaz, garnet, ruby, emerald, sapphire, pearl, diamond, crystal, coral.	Crown, state, empire, realm, royal , authority, sovereign, majesty, court, council, tax parliament, treaty assembly, alliance, record, revenue etc. Titles of offices: chancellor, treasurer, chamberlain, marshal, governor, councilor, minister, warden, mayor, constable	Curtain, couch, chair, cushion, screen, lamp, lantern, chandelier, blanket, quilt, coverlet, towel, basin	army, navy, peace, enemy, arms, battle, combat, skirmish, defense, ambush, retreat, soldier, garrison, guard, and spy. Also Officers: captain, lieutenant and sergeant	art, painting, sculpture, music, beauty, color, figure, image, tone architecture and building: cathedral, palace, mansion , chamber, ceiling, chimney , latch etc. Word from Literature such as, poet, prose, romance, story, chronicle, tragedy, prologue, preface, title, volume, chapter, parchment, paper, and pen.	Physician, surgeon, pain, gout, jaundice, paralytic, plague, stomach, pulse, remedy, ointment, balm, sulphur, poison etc.	felony, trespass, assault, arson, larceny, fraud, slander, adultery

- **Literature** was a channel in the Middle English period and in the fifteenth century it became the principal source for this transfer.
- Middle English literature was based directly on **French** originals so it had French words.
- Latin words were **small** in number in comparison to entering by way of **literature**.
- In a single work like Trevisa's translation of the **De Proprietatibus Rerum** of Bartholomew Anglicus we meet with several hundred words taken over from the Latin original.
- The **fourteenth and fifteenth** centuries were especially **prolific** in Latin borrowings.
- An anonymous **writer of early fifteenth century** says, it is not easy to translate from Latin into English, because 'there ys many wordes in Latyn that we have no propre Englysh accordyng to therto.
- Variety of local dialects led to a standard written language towards the end of **the fourteenth century**.

- In the **fifteenth century**, it won a general recognition, and since then it is the recognized standard in both **speech and writing**.
- **East Midland district** contributed the most to the formation of this standard. It became the basis, particularly, of the dialect of **London**.
- It had several causes. Firstly, this region occupied a middle position between the extreme divergences of the **north and south**.
- In the 14th century, the **monasteries** were playing a less important role in the dissemination of learning.
- The **two** universities had developed into important intellectual centers.
- In the rise of Standard English was the importance of **London** as the capital of England.
- Importance of London Standard was due to certain **reasons**: London was, and still is:

- **The political capital of England**
- **Commercial center of England**
- **Seat of the court** of the highest judicial tribunals
- **Focus of the social and intellectual activities**

- London **economy** was especially important as 'an engine of communication and exchange,
- The history of Standard English is almost a **history of London**.
- In the latter part of the **fifteenth century**, the London standard had been accepted, at least in **writing**, in most parts of the country
- Introduction of printing in **1476** was a reason and a new influence of great importance in the dissemination of London English.
- London was the center of **book publishing**.
- **Caxton**, the first English printer, used the current speech of London.
- In the **sixteenth century**, the use of London English had become a matter of **principle** as well as practice.

Lesson 20

DISCUSSION ON SAMPLES OF MIDDLE ENGLISH

- The language of **Chaucer** (poet and author) may be taken as representing with enough accuracy the dialect of London at the end of the **fourteenth century**.
- he is best known for '**canterbury Tales**'
- The latter are a little **more prominent in Chaucer** than in the nonliterary London documents of the same date. Among the usual East Midland, developments may be noted in OE '***ā as ō***': so notice: '*goon*'.
- **Geoffrey Chaucer of Canterbury Tales**.
- Characteristic of East Midland is the loss of the **prefix y-** and the retention of the **final -n**: holpen, dronken, holden etc.
- **The orthography** of the passage still shows the influence of the OE **scribal tradition**, for instance in the use of a and of the spelling **sc for [ʃ]** (for example, scort 'short').
- For the nouns, the normal **plural** in the passage is **-(e)s** (castles, bryniges), and in several words this is used where in Old English there was a different one, for example tumbes and snakes.
- There are certain points of grammar which remind us of **Old English**. The pronouns of the third-person plural are the English forms **hi, heom and her(e)**, not the Scandinavian they, them, their.
- Some examples of **V-S-O** order (such as, 'then seized they the people').
- **Adjectives** have lost almost all of their endings: there is a **plural -e** on some of them (such as yuele), but otherwise nothing.
- The ME writer has introduced the **preposition by** but has also retained the **OE -es ending**.

GoodLUCK All