

**Proto-Indo-European** (PIE), spoken ca. 5,000 years ago by a people living somewhere in the general vicinity of the Pontic Steppe north of the Black Sea and east to the Caspian. Before the invention of any writing system, PIE had become extinct, hence no direct evidence. As Indo-Europeans expanded from the ancestral homeland, PIE evolved, first into disparate dialects, and then into mutually incomprehensible daughter languages. Ten "proto-language" families are identified today: **Celtic, Germanic, Italic, Balto-Slavic** (with Baltic languages spoken in Latvia & Lithuania, and Slavic throughout eastern Europe) **Balkan, Hellenic, Anatolian, Armenian, Indo-Iranian, Tocharian**.

The Germanic tribes generally followed behind the Celts, but moved somewhat further north. Their language developed into three groups of tongues labelled **East, North, and West**.

2000-500	500-1 BC	1-500 AD	500-1000	1000-1500	1500-2000
Proto-Germanic	<b>East</b>	Gothic		Crimean Gothic	
		<b>Vandalic</b>			
		<b>North</b>			
			Old Norse	Old Icelandic	Icelandic
				Old Norwegian	Norwegian
				Old Swedish	Swedish
				Old Danish	Danish
		<b>West</b>			
			Old High German	Middle High German	German
					Swiss German
					Pennsylvania Dutch
					Yiddish
			Old Saxon	Middle Low German	Low German
			<b>Old English</b>	<b>Middle English</b>	<b>English</b>
			Old Dutch	Middle Dutch	Dutch
					Afrikaans

The history of English is conventionally divided into three periods called **Old English** (or Anglo-Saxon), **Middle English**, and **Modern English**. Until AD 410 most of Britain under Roman control. Around this time last Roman troops left to defend Rome against the **Vandals**. In 449 (**Germanic conquest**) Hengist and Horsa the Germanic leaders came to help the Celtic king Vortigern to repel the invasion of Scots from Ireland and Picts from the north.

<b>OLD ENGLISH</b>	}	Pre-Old English (c. 450 - 700)	<b>597</b> , Pope Gregory sent <b>St. Augustine</b> to convert the heathen Germanic inhabitants of Britain
		Early Old English (700 - 900)	<b>787</b> The earliest Viking raids took place. In <b>793</b> and <b>794</b> the monasteries of <b>Lindisfarne</b> and <b>Jarrow</b> , were attacked and plundered. First stage of <b>Danish invasions</b> from <b>787</b> to c. <b>850</b> . (plunder)  Second stage of invasion (invasion and settlement) – Danish army lands in <b>East Anglia</b> in <b>865</b> .  <b>King Alfred</b> (reigned from <b>871 - 899</b> ), <b>treaty of Wedmore 879 – the Danelaw</b>
		Late Old English (900 - 1100)	<b>1066</b> Norman Conquest → French influence
<b>MIDDLE ENGLISH</b>	}	Early Middle English (1100 - 1300)	<b>1204</b> loss of Normandy,
		Late Middle English (1300-1500)	re-establishment of English, <b>1337-1453</b> Hundred Years' War, <b>1348-1349</b> Black Death, great influx of French words, formation of the standard, <b>1476</b> William Caxton,
<b>MODERN ENGLISH</b>	}	Early Modern English (1500 - 1650)	Great Vowel Shift
		Late Modern English (1650-1800)	by the end of 18thc. British Empire – expansion of the 'New Englishes', normalisation, stabilisation, dictionaries, prescriptive grammars
		Present-day English (1800- )	

#### ▪ The major changes from Proto-Indo-European to Proto-Germanic

- Germanic has a large number of words that have no known cognates in other Indo-European languages.** These could have existed, of course, in Indo-European and have been lost; it is also possible that they were taken from non-Indo-European languages originally spoken in the area occupied by the Germanic peoples. A few words that are apparently distinctively Germanic, given in their Modern English forms, are *broad*, *drink*, *drive*, *fowl*, *hold*, *meat*, *rain*, and *wife*.
- The "free" accentual system of Indo-European**, in which the accent shifted from one syllable to another in various forms of a word, gave way to another type of **accentuation in which the first syllable was regularly stressed**. Exceptions were verbs like modern *believe* and *forget*, in which the initial syllable was a prefix. None of the Germanic languages has anything comparable to the shifting accentuation of

Latin *'virī 'men,' vi'rōrum 'of the men' or of 'habeō 'I have/ ha'bēmus 'we have.'*

3. **All Indo-European distinctions of tense and aspect were lost in the verb save for the present and the preterit (or past) tenses.** This simplification of a more complex Indo-European verbal system (though it was not so complex as what developed in Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit) is reflected in all the languages which have developed out of Germanic— in English *bind-bound*, as well as in German *binden-band*, Old Norse *binda-band*. There is in no Germanic language anything comparable to such forms as those of the Latin future, perfect, pluperfect, and future perfect forms (for instance, *laudābō, laudāvī, laudāveram, laudāverō*), which must be rendered in the Germanic languages by verb phrases (for instance, English *I shall praise, I have praised, I had praised, I shall have praised*).
4. **Germanic developed a preterit tense form with a dental suffix, that is, one containing *d* or *t*.** All Germanic languages thus have two types of verbs. Verbs that employ the dental suffix were called weak by Jacob Grimm because, being incapable of the type of internal change of *rise-rose* and *sing-sang* (which he called strong), they had to make do with suffixes, like *step-stepped* and *talk-talked*. An overwhelming majority of English verbs add the dental suffix in the preterit, so it has become the regular way of inflecting verbs. Indeed, it is the only living way of doing so in English and the other Germanic languages. For example, new verbs form their preterit in this way: *elbow-elbowed, televise-televised*. Furthermore, many verbs that were once strong have become weak (e.g. help, glide, float). Historically speaking, however, the vowel gradation of the strong verbs (as in *drive—drove, know-knew*) was quite regular, and some of the weak verbs are quite irregular. *Bring, think, and buy*, for instance, are weak verbs, as the dental suffix of *brought, thought, and bought* indicates; the vowel changes do not make them strong verbs. The suffix is the real test. No attempt at explaining the origin of this suffix has been wholly satisfactory. It is generally assumed that it was originally an independent word related to *do*.
5. **All the older forms of Germanic had two ways of declining their adjectives.** The weak declension was used chiefly when the adjective modified a definite noun and was preceded by the kind of word that developed into the definite article. The strong declension was used otherwise. Thus Old English had *þā geongan ceorlas* 'the young fellows (churls),' with the weak form of *geong*, but *geonge ceorlas* 'young fellows' with the strong form; the distinction is preserved in present-day German, *die jungen Kerle, but junge Kerle*. This particular Germanic characteristic cannot be illustrated in Modern English, inasmuch as in the course of its development English has lost all such declension of the adjective.
6. **Indo-European vowels underwent Germanic modification.** Indo-European *o* was retained in Latin but became *a* in Germanic (compare Lat. *octo* 'eight/ Gothic *ahtau*). Indo-European *ā* became *ō* (Lat. *māter* 'mother,' OE *mōdor*).
7. **Grimm's Law**