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*Методические рекомендации к практическим занятиям
для студентов направления подготовки
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A Timeline of Prehistoric Britain

700,000 BC	People migrate to Britain from Europe
130,000 BC	Neanderthal Britain
25,000 BC	the Ice Age
12,000 BC	Beginning of the end of the Ice Age. Re-colonization of Britain by Homo sapiens
c. 8,500 BC	Following the end of the ice age the climate grows much warmer. Forests spread across England. Also the sea level rises and England is cut off from Europe
6,000 BC	Britain becomes an Island
c. 4,500 BC	Farming is introduced into England
3,000 BC	New Stone Age begins: farming people arrive from Europe. First stone circles erected
c. 3000 BC – 1500 BC	Settlements proliferate and more land is cleared for farming
c. 2,500 BC	Stone age farmers build monuments called henges
c. 2300 BC	Arrival of the Beaker People in Britain
2,100 BC	the Bronze Age begins
c. 2,000 BC	Bronze is first used in England
1650 BC	Trade routes begin to form
1200 BC	Small villages were first formed
c. 1200 BC – 800 BC	Celtic culture and tribal kingdoms start to emerge. Roundhouse becomes the typical domestic structure
750 BC	the Iron Age begins
c. 650 BC	Iron tools and weapons are introduced by a people called the Celts
c. 150 BC	The potter's wheel is introduced into England. Metal coinage comes into use; widespread contact with continent

A Timeline of Roman Britain

55 BC	Julius Caesar leads an expedition to Britain
54 BC	Julius Caesar leads his second expedition
AD 43	The Romans invade Britain. They land in Kent
c. 50	A town grows up at London
51	Caractacus, a leader of British resistance to the Romans is captured
60	Boudicca (also known by her Latin name Boadicea) leads an unsuccessful rebellion against the Romans. She burns the towns of Colchester, St. Albans and London
78–85	Agricola is governor of Roman Britain
122–128	Hadrian's Wall is built
c. 270	A network of forts is built along the eastern coast of England, the Saxon shore. It is called that because fierce Saxons have begun raiding. Roman civilisation has begun to decline

- 286–293 Admiral Carausius breaks away from the rest of the Roman Empire and makes himself emperor of an independent Britain
- 367 “The Great Barbarian Raid”. A combined force of Irish, Scots and Picts attack Roman Britain
- 388 The Roman army abandons Hadrian's Wall
- 407 Last Roman soldiers leave Britain

A Timeline of Anglo-Saxon England

- c. 450 Invasions by Angles, Saxons and Jutes begin
- 477 According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Saxons led by Aella land in Sussex this year near Pevensey
- c. 520 The Celts utterly defeat the Saxons at the battle of 'Mount Badon', somewhere in Somerset, halting their advance for decades
- 577 The Saxons defeat the Romano-Celts at the battle of Deorham. Afterwards the Saxons capture, Bath, Cirencester and Gloucester. They cut the Celts in Wales off from the Celts in Southwest England
- 597 St Augustine arrives in Kent and begins to convert the Saxons
- 601 Augustine becomes the first Archbishop of Canterbury
- 604 The first Bishop of London is appointed
- 664 The Synod (church meeting) at Whitby
- 735 The Venerable Bede dies
- 757–796 Offa reigns in Mercia
- 793 The first Viking raid on England. They sack the monastery at Lindisfarne
- 865 The Danes invade England
- 871 The Saxons defeat the Danes at Ashdown. Alfred the Great becomes king of Wessex
- 878 Alfred crushes the Danes at the battle of Edington
- 879 By the treaty of Wedmore England is split between the Saxons and the Danes. Watling Street forms part of the border. London is left in Danish hands
- 886 Alfred recaptures London from the Danes
- 899 Alfred dies aged 50
- 899–924 The reign of Edward the Elder
- 901 Edward calls himself “King of the Angles and Saxons”
- 913 Edward the Elder recaptures Essex from the Danes. Over time the Saxon kings take over all of the Danish territory (the Danelaw)
- 924–939 The reign of Athelstan
- 937 The battle of Brunanburh. The English defeat an army of Danes, Scots and Irish
- 939–946 The reign of Edmund
- 946–955 The reign of Edred
- 955–959 The reign of Edwy
- 959–975 The reign of Edgar

975–978	The reign of Edward the Martyr. He is stabbed to death in Dorset
978–1016	The reign of Ethelred
1016–1035	The reign of Canute
1035–1040	The reign of Harold I
1040–1042	The reign of Hardicanute
1042–1066	The reign of Edward the Confessor

A Timeline of Norman England

1066	Harold becomes king, although William Duke of Normandy also claims the throne. Harald Hardrada, a Norwegian claims it as well. He invades England but his army is crushed at the battle of Stamford Bridge in September. The Normans win the battle of Hastings in October. William the Conqueror is crowned king in December
1069–1070	The 'harrying of the North'. Enraged by rebellion in the north of England Norman soldiers burn houses and crops and kill livestock. The area north of the Humber is left devastated
1074	William creates the New Forest in Hampshire where he can go hunting
1086	The Domesday Book is compiled. It lists all the manors of England and their value
1087	William the Conqueror dies while at war
1087	William Rufus becomes king
1100	William Rufus is killed by an arrow while hunting in the New Forest. (It is not clear whether it was an accident or whether he was murdered). Henry I becomes king
1120	The White Ship sinks in the English Channel. William, the heir to the English throne (Henry's only legitimate son) drowns
1135	Henry I dies. There are now two contenders for the throne. Henry wanted his daughter Matilda to rule after him. However many barons refuse to accept a woman ruler and support Henry's nephew Stephen. 'The 19 long winters' of civil war between Matilda and Stephen begin
1138	The English defeat the Scots at the battle of the Standard
1154	The civil wars end

A Timeline of the Plantagenets' rule

1154	Henry II becomes king
1170	Thomas Becket is killed in Canterbury Cathedral. He is later canonised (made a saint) and pilgrims flock to his tomb
1180	Rich people in England have glass windows for the first time since the Roman era
1189	Henry II dies. Richard I (the Lionheart) becomes king

- 1199 Richard I dies when he is hit by a crossbow bolt while fighting in France.
John becomes king
- 1207 King John founds Liverpool
- 1215 King John seals Magna Carta
- 1216 John dies.
Henry III becomes king
- 1221 Dominican friars (known as black friars) arrive in England
- 1264 Battle of Lewes. Simon De Monfort and rebel barons defeat the king
- 1265 The 1st Parliament.
Battle of Evesham. De Monfort is defeated and killed
- 1272 Henry III dies
- 1272 Edward I becomes king
- 1290 King Edward expels all Jews from England. Queen Eleanor dies
- 1295 King Edward calls the Model Parliament
- 1307 Edward I dies.
Edward II becomes king
- 1314 The battle of Bannockburn. The Scots utterly defeat the English
- 1315–1316 Famine stalks the land
- 1327 Edward II dies.
Edward III becomes king
- 1337 The Hundred Years War between England and France begins
- 1340 The English win the naval battle of Sluys against the French.
Geoffrey Chaucer is born
- 1346 The battle of Crecy. English longbow men crush the French army
- 1348 The Black Death comes to England. Perhaps a third of the population died over the next year
- 1356 The battle of Poitiers. Once again the England crush the French
- 1381 The Peasants Revolt. Peasants in Essex and Kent rise up and march on London. The king manages to persuade them to disperse by making promises, none of which he intends to keep
- 1388 The Scots defeat the English at the battle of Otterburn
- 1400 Geoffrey Chaucer dies. He was the first great writer in the English language

A Timeline of the Plantagenets' rule

- 1415 The battle of Agincourt. Once again the English win a great victory
- 1453 The Hundred Years War ends. England loses all its territory in France except for Calais
- 1455–1485 England suffers a series of civil wars known as the Wars of the Roses
- 1461 The battle of Towton
- 1471 The battle of Tewkesbury
- 1476 Caxton introduces the printing press into England
- 1483–1485 The reign of Richard III

A Timeline of Tudor England

- 1485 Henry VII becomes the first Tudor king
- 1509 Henry VII dies.
Henry VIII becomes king. Henry VIII marries Catherine of Aragon
- 1511 The Mary Rose is launched
- 1513 The English win the battle of Flodden against the Scots
- 1533 Henry divorces Catherine of Aragon. He marries Anne Boleyn
- 1534 Henry VIII makes himself head of the Church of England
- 1536 The Pilgrimage of Grace (An uprising in the North of England).
Anne Boleyn is beheaded. Henry marries Jane Seymour
- 1537 Jane Seymour dies
- 1536–1540 Henry VIII closes the monasteries and confiscates their property
- 1540 Henry marries Anne of Cleves but quickly divorces her.
Henry marries Kathryn Howard
- 1542 The battle of Solway Moss. The English defeat the Scots.
Kathryn Howard is beheaded
- 1543 Henry marries Catherine Parr
- 1547 Henry VIII dies.
Edward VI becomes king. The Duke of Somerset is made Lord Protector
- 1549 An Act of Uniformity imposes a Book of Common Prayer.
The Duke of Northumberland becomes Lord Protector
- 1552 The Duke of Somerset is executed
- 1553 Edward VI dies
- 1553 Mary becomes queen
- 1554 Lady Jane Grey is beheaded
- 1555–1558 Queen Mary persecutes Protestants. Nearly 300 people are burned to death for “heresy”
- 1558 Queen Mary (also known as 'Bloody Mary') dies.
Elizabeth I becomes queen
- 1570 The Pope excommunicates Queen Elizabeth
- 1576 The first theatre opens in London
- 1577–1580 Francis Drake sails around the world
- 1587 Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded
- 1588 The Spanish Armada is defeated
- 1596 Francis Drake dies
- 1600 The East India Company is founded
- 1601 The Poor Law is passed. People are made to pay a rate to support the poor
- 1603 In March Queen Elizabeth dies

A Timeline of the 17th century England

- 1603 James I becomes king.
- 1605 The gunpowder plot, a Catholic conspiracy to blow up parliament, is discovered.
- 1607 Jamestown, the first successful British colony in North America, is founded.
- 1625 James I dies. Charles I becomes king.
- 1628 William Harvey publishes his discovery of the circulation of the blood. The Petition of Right is presented to the king by parliament. George Villiers, the Duke of Buckingham is assassinated in Portsmouth.
- 1629–1640 The Eleven Years Tyranny. Charles I rules without parliament.
- 1642 Civil war between king and parliament begins. They fight the indecisive battle of Edgehill. Isaac Newton is born.
- 1646 Charles I surrenders to the Scots and the first civil war comes to an end.
- 1648 Charles I starts another civil war. The Scots intervene on his behalf. However the battle of Preston ends hopes of restoring Charles I to power. Pride's Purge. Thomas Pride removes some Presbyterian MPs from parliament.
- 1649 King Charles I is beheaded.
- 1651 A Scottish army invades England in an attempt to put Charles II on the throne. The Scots are defeated at Worcester and Charles flees abroad. Thomas Hobbes publishes his work Leviathan.
- 1652–1654 The first Anglo-Dutch war.
- 1653 Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England.
- 1655–1657 Rule of the Major-Generals.
- 1658 Oliver Cromwell dies. His son Richard takes over.
- 1659 Richard Cromwell resigns. His fall from power is so swift he becomes known as 'Tumbledown Dick'.
- 1660 Charles II becomes king.
- 1662 The Royal Society (a Scientific organisation) is given its charter by Charles II. Charles II marries a Portuguese princess, Catherine of Braganza. The Act of Uniformity is passed.
- 1663 The first turnpike road is opened. (Turnpike roads were owned by turnpike trusts that maintained them. You had to pay to use them).
- 1665 Plaque in London. This is the last outbreak of bubonic plague in England.
- 1665–1667 The second Anglo-Dutch war
- 1666 The great fire of London. Most of the city is destroyed but it is soon rebuilt.
- 1672–1674 The 3rd Anglo-Dutch war
- 1673 The Test Act is passed. Catholics and Protestant dissenters are prevented from holding public office.
- 1679 The Act of Habeas Corpus. Imprisonment without trial is outlawed.

- 1685 Charles II dies. James II (a Roman Catholic) becomes king. The Duke of Monmouth (Charles II's illegitimate son) leads an unsuccessful rebellion in Southwest England.
- 1687 Isaac Newton publishes his great work Principia Mathematica. He lays the foundations of modern physics.
- 1688 The 'Glorious, Bloodless Revolution'. James II flees abroad and William and Mary become the new monarchs.
- 1689 The Bill of Rights is passed.
- 1694 Mary dies of smallpox aged 32. The Bank of England is founded.
- 1698 Thomas Savery invents the first steam engine.

A Timeline of the 18th Century England

- 1701 The Act of Settlement is passed.
- 1702 William dies. Anne becomes queen.
- 1704 The Duke of Marlborough defeats the French at the Battle of Blenheim. The British capture Gibraltar.
- 1707 The Act of Union joins England and Scotland.
- 1714 Queen Anne dies. George I becomes king.
- 1715 The first Jacobite uprising. The Highlanders rise but the uprising ends in an indecisive battle near Stirling.
- 1721 Robert Walpole becomes the king's main minister. People call him the Prime Minister. (Originally it was a term of abuse).
- 1727 George I dies. George II becomes king. Isaac Newton dies.
- 1733 John Kay invents the flying shuttle.
- 1735 The Prime Minister moves into 10 Downing Street.
- 1742 Prime Minister Robert Walpole resigns.
- 1745 The second Jacobite uprising. The Jacobites invade England and reach as far as Derby but then turn back.
- 1746 The Jacobites are crushed at the battle of Culloden.
- 1756 The Seven Years War against France begins.
- 1759 General Wolfe captures Quebec but is killed. His victory ensures Canada will be a British colony not a French one.
- 1763 The Seven Years War ends.
- 1769 James Watt patents an improved steam engine.
- 1771 Richard Arkwright introduces a loom powered by a water mill.
- 1773 The Stock Exchange is founded.
- 1779 The world's first iron bridge is built in Shropshire. Samuel Crompton invents the spinning mule.
- c. 1780 The Industrial Revolution begins to transform Britain. Lord George Gordon leads anti-Catholic riots in London.
- 1783 Britain signs a treaty recognising the independence of the American colonies.
- 1787 The first convicts leave Britain from Portsmouth for Australia.
- 1792 Gas light is invented.

1799 Income tax is introduced to pay for the war against France.

A Timeline of the 19th century Britain

- 1801 The first census is held. Another Act of Union joins Ireland to England and Scotland.
- 1805 The battle of Trafalgar.
- 1807 The slave trade is abolished.
- 1809 Charles Darwin is born.
- 1813 The Duke of Wellington defeats the French army at the battle of Vitoria in Spain.
- 1815 The battle of Waterloo. Humphrey Davy invents the miners' safety lamp, which saves many lives.
- 1820 George III dies. George IV becomes king.
- 1825 The world's first public passenger railway opens (The Stockton and Darlington railway).
- 1829 The Catholic Emancipation Act gives Catholics civil rights.
- 1830 George IV dies. William IV becomes king.
- 1832 The Great Reform Act is passed. Seats in parliament are distributed more fairly and the middle class are given the vote.
- 1833 Slavery is abolished throughout the British Empire.
- 1837 William IV dies. Victoria becomes queen.
- 1840 The penny black stamp is introduced. The writer Thomas Hardy is born. Queen Victoria marries Albert.
- 1842 A new law bans women and children from working underground in mines.
- 1847 A new law bans women and children from working more than 10 hours a day.
- 1848 There are cholera epidemics in British towns. The Health Act is passed.
- 1854–1856 The Crimean War is fought. Britain and France defeat the Russians.
- 1859 Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species*. It outlines his theory of evolution.
- 1861 Prince Albert dies.
- 1863 The first (steam driven) underground train in London.
- 1867 The second Reform Act increases the number of people allowed to vote.
- 1868 First Trades Union Congress. The last public execution is carried out in England.
- 1870 Education Act to provide state education for all. Charles Dickens dies.
- 1871 The Bank Holiday Act is passed. For most working class people bank holidays are their only paid holidays.
- 1872 The secret ballot is introduced. The second Public Health Act is passed.
- 1875 A law bans the practice of sending small boys up chimneys to clean them. From now on you have to be over 21 to clean a chimney that way. The third Public Health Act is passed. Conditions in towns and cities are slowly getting better. In the 1870s and 1880s networks of

sewers are dug and water pipes are laid. Gas light becomes common even in the poorest homes. Captain Matthew Webb swims the English Channel.

- 1881 Alexander Fleming is born.
- 1884 The 3rd reform act gives more men the vote.
- 1889 Gas workers successfully strike. London dockworkers successfully strike. For the first time unskilled workers are forming successful trade unions.
- 1890 The first electric underground trains run in London.
- 1899–1902 The Boer War is fought.

A Timeline of the 20th - the early 21st century Britain

- 1901 Queen Victoria dies. Her son becomes Edward VII.
- 1904 Britain signs the Entente Cordiale (friendly understanding) with France.
- 1909 The first old age pensions are paid.
- 1910 Edward VII dies. George V becomes king.
- 1911 The National Insurance Act is passed. Some workers are allowed unemployment benefit and sickness benefit is created. The Parliament Act greatly reduces the power of the House of Lords.
- 1914 In August the First World War begins.
- 1916 The Battle of the Somme is fought. Tanks are used in battle for the first time. Conscription is introduced. Battle of Jutland.
- 1918 The First World War ends in November. Women over 30 are allowed to vote. The school leaving age is raised to 14.
- 1922 The BBC is founded.
- 1926 Workers hold a General Strike but they are defeated. A. A. Milne publishes Winnie The Pooh.
- 1928 Universal suffrage is introduced. Everyone over the age of 21 is allowed to vote.
- 1930 Frank Whittle invents the jet engine. Following the Wall Street Crash the depression bites and unemployment rises sharply.
- 1932 Unemployment in Britain reaches 22.8 %.
- 1933 Unemployment starts to fall. Britain starts to recover from the depression.
- 1936 In January unemployment in 13.9 %. It continues to slowly fall. George V dies. Edward VIII becomes king but soon abdicates. George VI becomes king. Television begins in Britain. The Jarrow March is held.
- 1939 The Second World War begins. All workers are given one weeks annual paid holiday. About 10% of households in Britain now own a car.
- 1940 The British army is evacuated from Dunkirk. Battle of Britain. The Germans begin bombing British cities.
- 1943 In May German forces in North Africa surrender. In July the allies invade Sicily.

- 1944 Allied invasion of France. The Butler Education Act is passed.
- 1945 Second World War ends. George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm* is published. Labour wins the general election.
- 1947 The school leaving age is raised to 15.
- 1948 The National Health Service is founded.
- 1949 George Orwell's novel *1984* is published.
- 1952 George VI dies. Elizabeth becomes queen.
- 1953 Coronation of Elizabeth II. TV becomes increasingly common. Many people buy a TV to watch the coronation. By the end of 1953 approximately 25 % of households in Britain have a TV.
- 1954 Food rationing ends.
- 1956 The Suez crisis in Egypt. Britain sends troops but is soon forced to withdraw. The event proves that Britain is no longer a great power. The first nuclear power station opens at Calder Hall.
- 1959 The Conservatives win a 3rd election victory. Cars are becoming increasingly common. A survey shows 32 % of households own one.
- 1960 Britain is becoming increasingly affluent. A survey shows 44 % of households own a washing machine.
- 1962 The Beatles release their first single 'Love Me Do'.
- 1965 Capital punishment is abolished for an experimental period of 5 years.
- 1967 Colour TV begins.
- 1969 Capital punishment is abolished permanently.
- 1970 The minimum age for voting is lowered from 21 to 18.
- 1972 The school leaving age is raised to 16.
- 1973 Britain joins the EEC (forerunner of the EU). Unemployment stands at 3 %.
- 1975 The Sex Discrimination Act is passed. Unemployment passed one million. It is over 5 % for the first time since 1945.
- 1978 The first test tube baby is born.
- 1979 The Conservatives win a general election. Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first woman prime minister.
- 1981 Prince Charles marries Diana.
- 1982 The Falklands War is fought against Argentina. The *Nary Rose* is raised from the sea bed.
- 1987 Corporal punishment ends in state schools.
- 1990 Margaret Thatcher falls from power. She is replaced by John Major. Britain enters a recession. Unemployment starts to rise rapidly. Conservatives win a 4th general election.
- 1994 The Channel Tunnel opens. The National Lottery begins.
- 1997 Britain hands Hong Kong back to China, ending more than 150 years of British rule. On 31 August Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash in Paris.
- 1999 Welsh national assembly and Scottish parliament start their work
- 2002 HM Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Golden Jubilee – 50 years. The last coal mine in Scotland closes.

- 2003 The UK joins a US-led military invasion of Iraq, ostensibly to end the country's support for terrorism and because it is alleged to have 'weapons of mass destruction'.
- 2005 London bombings of 7/7 – 52 people are killed and about 700 injured in four Islamist suicide bomb attacks on London's transport network.
- 2007 Gordon Brown becomes prime minister. Jacqui Smith becomes the first female Home Secretary.
- 2009 A severe recession afflicts the nation.
- 2010 Recovery from recession begins. After a general election Conservatives and Liberals form a coalition government. David Cameron becomes prime minister. Gordon Brown succeeded as Leader of the Labour Party by Ed Miliband.
- 2011 Prince William married Catherine (Kate) Middleton in Westminster Abbey on 29 April. They subsequently take the titles the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.
- 2012 HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – 60 years. Britain hosts the hugely successful Summer Olympics and Paralympics.
- 2015 On 9 September, Queen Elizabeth II becomes the longest-reigning UK monarch ever, after Queen Victoria who reigned for 63 years and 7 months.
- 2016 In a national referendum in June, the UK narrowly voted to leave the European Union. Prime Minister David Cameron resigns and is succeeded by former home secretary, Theresa May.
- 2019 Prime Minister Theresa May resigns as Conservative Party leader. She is replaced by Boris Johnson.
- 2020 Coronavirus reaches the United Kingdom. A UK-wide lockdown is announced. The UK approves the new Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, the first country in the world to do so.
- 2021 Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and husband of the Queen, dies at the age of 99. He was the longest-serving royal consort in history and widely mourned.
- 2022 on 12 June Queen Elizabeth II becomes the second longest reigning monarch in history, behind Louis XIV of France who reigned from 1643-1715. On 8 September – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II dies at Balmoral Castle, aged 96. Her son succeeds to the throne as Charles III.
- 2023 Coronation of Charles III and Camilla. Humza Yousaf succeeds Nicola Sturgeon as Leader of the SNP.

List of monarchs

English Monarchs

The Anglo-Saxon kings

The House of Mercia

Offa (r. 757–796)

The House of Wessex

Egbert, King of Wessex (r. 802–839)

Ethelwulf (r. 839–856)

Ethelbald (r. 856–860)

Ethelbert (r. 860–866)

Ethelred (r. 866–871)

Alfred ‘The Great’ (r. 871–899)

Edward ‘The Elder’ (r. 899–924)

Athelstan (r. 924–939)

Edmund I (r. 939–946)

Edred (r. 946–955)

Edwy (r. 955–959)

Edgar (r. 959–975)

Edward II ‘The Martyr’ (r. 975–979)

Ethelred II ‘The Unready’
(r. 979–1013)

The House of Denmark

Sweyn (r. 1013–1014)

The House of Wessex (restored, first time)

Ethelred II ‘The Unready’
(r. 1014–1016)

Edmund II ‘Ironside’ (r. Apr –
Nov 1016)

The House of Denmark (restored)

Canute ‘The Great’ (r. 1016–1035)

Harold Harefoot (r. 1035–1040)

Hardicanute (r. 1035–1042)

The House of Wessex (restored, second time)

Edward III ‘The Confessor’
(r. 1042–1066)

Harold II (r. Jan – Oct 1066)

Edgar Atheling (r. Oct – Dec 1066)

The Normans

The House of Normandy

William I ‘The Conqueror’
(r. 1066–1087)

William II (Known as William Rufus)
(r. 1087–1100)

Henry I ‘Beauclerc’ (r. 1100–1135)

Stephen (r. 1135–1154)

The House of Plantagenet

Henry II ‘Curtmantle’ (r. 1154–1189)

Richard I Coeur de Lion (‘The
Lionheart’) (r. 1189–1199)

John Lackland (r. 1199–1216)

Henry III (r. 1216–1272)

Edward I ‘Longshanks’ (r. 1272–1307)

Edward II (r. 1307–1327)

Edward III (r. 1327–1377)

Richard II (r. 1377–1399)

The House of Lancaster

Henry IV (r. 1399–1413)

Henry V (r. 1413–1422)

Henry VI (r. 1422–1461 and 1470–
1471)

The House of York

Edward IV (r. 1461–1470 and
1471–1483)

Edward V (Apr–Jun 1483)

Richard III (r. 1483–1485)

The House of Tudor

Henry VII (r. 1485–1509)

Henry VIII (r. 1509–1547)

Edward VI (r. 1547–1553)

Lady Jane Grey (r. 10–19 July 1553)

Mary I (r. 1553–1558)

Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603)

Scottish Monarchs

The House of Alpin (848–1034)

Kenneth I (r. 843–858)

Donald I (r. 858–862)

Constantine I (r. 862–877)

Aed (r. 877–878)

Giric (r. 878–889)

Donald II (r. 889–900)

Constantine II (r. 900–943)

Malcolm I (r. 943–954)

Indulf (r. 954–962)

Dubh or Duff (r. 962–966)

Culen (r. 966–971)

Kenneth II (r. 971–995)

Constantine III (r. 995–997)

Kenneth III (r. 971–997)

Malcolm II (r. 1005–1034)

The House of Dunkeld (1034–1286)

Duncan I (r. 1034–1040)

Macbeth (r. 1040–1057)

Lulach (r. 1057–1058)

Malcolm III (r. 1058–1093)

Donald III (r. 1093–1094, 1094–1097)

Duncan II (r. 1094)

Edgar (r. 1097–1107)

Alexander I (r. 1107–1124)

David I (r. 1124–1153)

Malcolm IV (r. 1153–1165)

William I (r. 1165–1214)

Alexander II (r. 1214–1249)

Alexander III (r. 1249–1286)

The House of Fairhair (1286–1290), disputed

Margaret (r. 1286–1290)

The House of Balliol (1292–1296)

John Balliol (r. 1292–1296)

The House of Bruce (1306–1371)

Robert I (r. 1306–1329)

David II (r. 1329–1371)

The House of Stewart (1371–1567) / Stuart

Robert II (r. 1371–1390)

Robert III (r. 1390–1406)

James I (r. 1406–1437)

James II (r. 1437–1460)

James III (r. 1460–1488)

James IV (r. 1488–1513)

James V (r. 1513–1542)

Mary, Queen of Scots (r. 1542–1567)

United Kingdom Monarchs (1603 – present)

The House of Stuart

James I (r. 1603–1625)

Charles I (r. 1625–1649)

House of Stuart (restored)

Charles II (r. 1660–1685)

James II (r. 1685–1688)

Mary II (1689–1694), William III
(1689–1702)

Anne (r. 1702–1714)

The House of Hanover

George I (r. 1714–1727)

George II (r. 1727–1760)

George III (r. 1760–1820)

George IV (r. 1820–1830)

William IV (r. 1830–1837)

Victoria (r. 1837–1901)

The House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha

Edward VII (r. 1901–1910)

The House of Windsor

George V (r. 1910–1936)

Edward VIII (Jan–Dec 1936)

George VI (r. 1936–1952)

Elizabeth II (r. 1952–2022)

Charles III (r. 2022–)

List of Prime Ministers, period of office and political party

Sir Robert Walpole, 1721–1742, Whig
 Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington, 1742–1743, Whig
 Henry Pelham, 1743–1754, Whig
 Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle, 1754–1756 and 1757–1762, Whig
 William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire, 1756–1757, Whig
 John Stuart, Earl of Bute, 1762–1763, Tory
 George Grenville, 1763–1765, Whig
 Charles Wentworth, Marquess of Rockingham, 1765–1766, 1782, Whig
 The Earl of Chatham, William Pitt ‘The Elder’, 1766–1768, Whig
 Augustus Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Grafton, 1768–1770, Whig
 Lord North, 1770–1782, Tory
 William Petty, Earl of Shelburne, 1782–1783, Whig
 William Bentinck, Duke of Portland, 1783 and 1807–1809, Whig
 William Pitt ‘The Younger’, 1783–1801 and 1804–1806, Tory
 Henry Addington, 1801–1804, Tory
 William Wyndam Grenville, Lord Grenville, 1806–1807, Whig
 Spencer Perceval, 1809–1812, Tory
 Robert Banks Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool, 1812–1827, Tory
 George Canning, 1827, Tory
 Frederick Robinson, Viscount Goderich, 1827–1828, Tory
 Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, 1828–1830, Tory
 Earl Grey, 1830–1834, Whig
 William Lamb, Viscount Melbourne, 1834 and 1835–1841, Whig
 Sir Robert Peel, 1834–1835 and 1841–1846, Tory
 Earl Russell, 1846–1851 1865–1866, Liberal
 The Earl of Derby, 1852, 1858–1859 and 1866–1868, Conservative
 Earl of Aberdeen, 1852–1855, Tory
 Viscount Palmerston, 1855–1858 and 1859–1865, Liberal
 Benjamin Disraeli, 1868 and 1874–1880, Conservative
 William Ewart Gladstone, 1868–1874, 1880–1885, 1886 and 1892–1894, Liberal
 Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury, 1885–1886, 1886–1892 and
 1895–1902, Conservative
 The Earl of Rosebery, 1894–1895, Liberal
 Arthur James Balfour, 1902–1905, Conservative
 Henry Campbell-Bannerman, 1905–1908, Liberal
 Herbert Henry Asquith, 1908–1916, Liberal
 David Lloyd George, 1916–1922, Liberal
 Andrew Bonar Law, 1922–1923, Conservative
 Stanley Baldwin, 1923, 1924–1929, 1935–1937, Conservative
 James Ramsay MacDonald, 1924 and 1929–1935, Labour
 Arthur Neville Chamberlain, 1937–1940, Conservative
 Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, 1940–1945 and 1951–1955,
 Conservative

Clement Richard Attlee, 1945–1951, Labour
 Anthony Eden, 1955–1957, Conservative
 Harold Macmillan, 1957–1963, Conservative
 Sir Alec Douglas-Home, 1963–1964, Conservative
 Harold Wilson, 1964–1970 and 1974–1976, Labour
 Edward Heath, 1970–1974, Conservative
 James Callaghan, 1976–1979, Labour
 Margaret Thatcher, 1979–1990, Conservative
 John Major, 1990–1997, Conservative
 Tony Blair, 1997–2007, Labour
 Gordon Brown, 2007–2010, Labour
 David Cameron, 2010–2016, Conservative
 Theresa May, 2016–2019, Conservative
 Boris Johnson, 2019–2022, Conservative
 Liz Truss, 6 September 2022 – 25 October 2022, Conservative
 Rishi Sunak, 25 October 2022–

How Culture Can Underlie English Words

Sometimes the full meaning of a word or phrase cannot be clear unless you are familiar with the culture that gave rise to it. By “culture” we mean the non-universal knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and practices of a particular group. The English language has numerous words that are linked to the culture of its originators. For example, the word *stumped* meaning “unable to find an answer” is actually borrowed from the game of cricket, where it refers to a situation that would need pages to explain here. You do not need to know cricket in order to use and understand the non-cricket meaning of *stumped*, but such knowledge does help a deeper understanding.

Categories of English Cultural Words

1 Geographical.

Many area names are cultural, since their users are normally thinking of special features of the areas rather than just the areas alone. For example, *the home counties* in Britain are more than just an area around London: *counties* are large local government areas, while *home* hints at the importance of London. In the USA, *the Mid-West* suggests a certain type of terrain, climate and people, while in New Zealand *North Island* probably suggests population and warm summers.

Geographical expressions can also represent types of places. A particularly cultural one is *leafy suburbs*: you have to understand that English speakers like trees, so that suburbs with them are considered desirable and hence tend to attract the rich. *Green belts* are similar: not just areas where building is restricted around a city, but leafy and wealthy. Very often they neighbour a *stockbroker belt*, an exclusive residential area popular with stockbrokers, who tend to be very rich.

Inner cities are the reverse: run-down places near a city centre where poorer people tend to be concentrated. Poorer people also often live on *council estates*, a

British name for social housing (*councils*, which manage them, are the main British units of local government). *Industrial areas* are also viewed negatively: despite the benefits of industry, its environmental costs influence many people's attitudes.

2 Political.

Every English-speaking country tends to have some political terms that are unique to it. Unfamiliarity with them can easily hinder newspaper-reading. American *Congress* and British *Parliament* are parallel but not equivalent, while Britain and the USA have different understandings of *counties* and *Attorney General*.

Peculiarly British political terms that are necessary to explain to students include *backbenchers*, *constituencies*, *party whips*, *white papers*, *council tax*, *safe seats*, *peers*, *Chancellor of the Exchequer*, *The Budget*, *Downing Street*, *The Speaker* and *The Queen's Speech*. In the USA, important terms include *The White House*, *primaries*, *party conventions*, *running mates*, *federal laws*, *senators* and *governors*. In Britain, a basic compass word is sometimes placed after a city name instead of before – e.g. *Bristol South-West* – indicating a district whose people elect a politician to represent it.

3 Educational.

This area is full of the abbreviation type called acronyms. Although not all acronyms are cultural (cf. *NATO*), many in education are. In Britain, they include *SATs*, *GCSEs*, *A' Levels*, *EFL* (AmE = *ESL*), *IELTS* (*TOEFL*), *BA*, *MD*, *RE*, *FE*, *HE*, *OU* and *OFSTED*. The opposition between *FE* (Further Education) and *HE* (Higher Education) can be particularly challenging.

Other interesting expressions are *public schools* (private and expensive in Britain, state-run and accessible in America), *comprehensive schools*, *grammar schools* (the most academic British type – the name, I am sure, part of the reason why many Britons are slightly intimidated by grammar), *sixth form* (the last two years – sixth and seventh – of British secondary education), *year 7* (first year of secondary school), *half-term*, *eleven-plus*, *form tutors* and *prefects*. The Harry Potter novels by JK Rowling give useful insights into the workings of elite British schools.

4 Sporting.

Stumped, of course, falls into this category. Its sporting meaning is cultural because not every culture is familiar with cricket. Its second meaning, “unable to find an answer”, is metaphorical. Meaning described as metaphorical (or “figurative”) is a kind of alternative meaning that many language expressions are likely to convey.

Many other sporting terms have a metaphorical second meaning whose full understanding depends on familiarity with the sport: *hold all the aces*, *hit the bullseye*, *hit ... for six*, *field questions*, *score an own goal*, *kick off*, *fall at the first hurdle*, *trumped*, *a pawn*, *a scrum*, *tackle*, *catch up*, *caught out*, *jockeying*, *a close call*, *a knockout blow*, *a good innings*, *off (... 's) own bat*.

Many of these expressions, it is clear, are phrases rather than single words.

Outside of sport, there are many other metaphorical phrases in English:

Noun-Like

the bare bones (the essential part);
the black sheep (the sole troublesome member of a group);
a blanket need/call (affecting everyone);
the bottom line (the final total = the main point);
a burning question (vital; all-consuming);
a damp squib (wet firework = a disappointing effect);
a dark horse (unnoticed potential winner);
the end of the line (railway route = project; specific behaviour);
the end of the tunnel (difficult period);
a fairy tale (an unbelievable or untrue story; lie);
a flash in the pan (temporary success);
food for thought (stimulus);
a fount of wisdom (source);
a game changer (situation; set of rules);
a grey area (poorly defined);
a hard nut to crack (difficult problem);
the heart of the matter (central point);
a hidden agenda (purpose);
the high water mark (maximum level of success achieved);
a hive of activity (a location where things are very busy);
the last straw (addition to existing troubles that induces action to end them);
the lion's share (much larger than anyone else's);
a mixed bag (mixture of good and bad);
a mountain to climb (see below);
plain sailing (trouble-free);
no room for... (manoeuvre/complacency etc.) (it is not acceptable);
no two ways about it (no doubt);
a port of call (scheduled stopping place);
a rocky passage (troublesome);
a silver bullet (solution to all problems);
a stumbling block (almost falling whilst walking = progressing less successfully);
a theatre of war (area subregion);
the thin end of the wedge (a small concession leading to larger ones later);
a tipping point (key moment of change in a process);
a white elephant (an unsuccessful expensive project);
a world of difference (huge area).

Many of these commonly go at the end of a statement, often after BE, e. g.:

- a) **The growth of the company is a fairy tale.**
- b) **The camp was a hive of activity.**
- c) **Language learners have a mountain to climb.**

A fairy tale is a happy story about *fairies*, imaginary human-like creatures with wings and magical powers. To describe a real event as a fairy tale thus makes it sound

happy and fortunate. *Hives* are where bees live. They suggest a high activity level because bees are numerous and hard-working (cf. the expression *a busy bee*). Hence likening somewhere to a bee hive makes it too sound very busy. In (c), *a mountain to climb* is a huge task. The phrase typically follows either *there is* or *have*.

5 Religious.

No major religion is exclusive to English-speaking countries. However, the faith with historically the most followers there, Christianity, has contributed some words to English that learners from non-Christian cultures can struggle with. Like words from sport, most from Christianity have a metaphorical meaning as well as their basic religious one.

Take *anoint*. Literally it means “apply ointment to the skin”. In Christianity, this action is associated with desirable religious changes in the recipient, for example the change from non-Christian to Christian. In the metaphorical use, the idea of putting someone into a desirable new state remains. A common usage is in business, where a leader might “anoint” someone by naming them as their future successor.

Other fundamentally religious words, with their metaphorical meanings, include *holy grail* (“most desired objective”), *gospel* (“unquestioned principle”), *worship* (“like very much”), *sacrosanct* (“not to be criticised or treated disrespectfully”), *sanctimonious* (“acting in an exaggeratedly holy way”), *sanctuary* (“place of rest and solitude”), *religiously* (“conscientiously”), *sins* (“mistakes”), *to bless* (“bring benefit to”; “approve”), *a baptism of fire* (“difficult beginning”), *biblical* (“like something in The Bible”), *angelic* (“beautiful and well-behaved”), *evangelical* (“vigorously promoting”), *a hierarchy* (“group members ranked according to importance”), *sacrifice* (“rejection of something desirable for a higher purpose”), *diabolical* (evil), *hell* (“very painful situation”), *heavenly* (“very pleasurable”), *redeem* (“bring back into favour”) and *salvation* (“escape from an awful fate”).

6 Zoological/Botanical.

Animal and plant names can be associated with a particular culture either in themselves (the animal or plant originating where the culture is located), or through being used in a special metaphorical way by that culture. The former kind are often not a problem for learners of English: concepts like *bear*, *coyote*, *kangaroo*, *kiwi*, *maple tree*, *rattlesnake* and *sheepdog* tend to be known all over the world. Lesser-known ones might include *shire horse*, *daisy*, *nettle*, *bluebottle* and *midge*.

Metaphorical usages can involve creatures from outside the English-speaking world as well as within. *Guinea pigs* are South American, but they are also “people or things being tested experimentally”. Also notable are *a can of worms* (“rich source of potential problems”), *cats’ eyes* (headlamp reflectors on a road), *a cuckoo in the nest* (“an unwelcome group member”), *to fox (someone)* (“trick”), *a hornets’ nest* (“a potentially dangerous situation”), *sheepish* (“showing shame or embarrassment”), *to squirrel (something) away* (“hide for future use”), *beavering away* (“working hard”), *to grasp the nettle* (“initiate an unpleasant task”), *weasel words* (“evasive answers”), *make hay* (“maximally utilise an opportunity”), *the lion’s share* (= the majority), *a hive of activity* (“very busy place”) and *eagle-eyed* (“very observant”).

7 Nautical.

Historically, seafaring has been very important for Britain. English reflects this with numerous expressions. The word *wake*, meaning “white water behind a ship”, is common in the metaphorical phrase *in the wake of* (= “after”). Other metaphorical expressions include *know the ropes* (referring to ropes attached to sails on a ship), *plain sailing, on board, high and dry, port of call, safe haven, drift, harbour, navigate, pirates, shipshape, sink, watertight* and *wreck*.

Metaphorical Meanings of Sport Words

hold all the aces (cards) = control all aspects;

hit the bull’s eye (archery or darts) = find exactly what you are seeking;

hit ... for six (cricket) = hit ... very hard;

field questions(cricket) = deal with numerous questions from different sources;

score an own goal(soccer) = hurt your own interests;

kick off (football, rugby) = begin;

fall at the first hurdle (horse-racing) abandon a project at its first challenge;

trumped (cards) = defeated by someone’s better move;

a pawn (chess) = an unimportant person used by others;

a scrum (rugby) = crowd members fighting each other for the same thing;

tackle (hockey, rugby, soccer) = start dealing with a problem;

catch up (running) = return to a schedule after falling behind;

caught out (baseball, cricket) = exposed as having acted dishonestly;

jockeying (horse-racing) = seeking the best position for gaining the lead;

a close call (tennis) = a small distance from disaster;

a knock-out blow (boxing) = a winning move;

a good innings (cricket) = a long life;

off (...’s) own bat (cricket) = independently.

English Words with Noticeably French Spellings

Many French spellings in English can be grouped together on the basis of a common feature that they possess. The following groups are notable:

1 Longer words ending in “-ee”.

In French, the *-ee* ending is equivalent to English *-ed* on verbs after BE and HAVE – in other words it is the ending of “past” participles. This means that, when used alone or after BE, it has passive meaning. Thus *employee* in French means “employed” or “used”. The French pronunciation of *-ee* sounds a little like “ay” in English. Also specific to French is the need to use *-ee* only with feminine nouns. The masculine equivalent has a single *-e* (usually with an accent: *-é*).

In English, the French *-ee* tends to be found in words of two or more syllables (it is not present, for example, in *bee*). It is usually pronounced /i:/ and it can represent either men or women. The words tend to be nouns rather than verbs, but they still usually keep their passive meaning: *an employee* is “a person who has been employed”.

Other examples are *absentee*, *addressee*, *advisee*, *amputee* (a person who has suffered amputation), *committee*, *detainee*, *devotee*, *divorcee*, *escapee*, *evacuee*, *examinee*, *internee*, *interviewee*, *nominee*, *payee*, *referee* (“a person who is referred to”), *refugee*, *returnee*, *trainee* and *trustee*. The *-ee* part is stressed – pronounced more strongly than any other part – in all of these words except *committee* (where *-mit-* is stressed instead). This means, unsurprisingly, that *committee* is often mispronounced.

A few English words actually keep the “ay”-like French pronunciation, e.g. *fiancee*, *melee*, *negligee* and *puree*. The first of these also has a purely feminine meaning, its masculine equivalent being *fiancé* (same pronunciation). The word *résumé* is another with only one final “e”,

2 Longer words ending in “-et”.

In French, consonant letters at the end of a word are often not pronounced. This tendency has been carried over into English in a noticeable way with some longer words ending in “-et”. All of the following words end with the pronunciation /eɪ/ rather than /ət/ or /ɪt/: *ballet*, *beret*, *bidet*, (pronounced like *bee day*), *bouquet* (*boo kay*), *buffet* (= self-service food), *cachet*, *chalet*, *croquet*, *duvet*, *ricochet*, *sobriquet*, *tourniquet* and *valet*.

In a few other cases, the French pronunciation has been dropped in favour of the more expected English one. It is /ət/ or /ɪt/ in *blanket*, *buffet* (= blow sideways), *casket*, *fillet*, *musket*, *sonnet* and *ticket*, and /et/ (with stress) in *cadet* and *minuet*.

3 Longer words ending in “-age”.

This ending is widespread in English. Its French pronunciation rhymes with English *barge*, but the English one mostly rhymes with *bridge* (not *wage* – apart from in *engage*). The few English words that have kept the French pronunciation include *barrage*, *dressage*, *entourage*, *espionage*, *fuselage*, *garage* (American English only), *massage*, *mirage*, *montage* and *sabotage*.

A notable subgroup among words with the English pronunciation is nouns made by adding *-age* to a verb. They include *blockage*, *breakage*, *carriage*, *passage*, *shrinkage*, *spoilage*, *stoppage*, *storage*, *usage* and *wastage*. These words are unlikely to have been borrowed from French.

Other words with the English pronunciation include *adage*, *advantage*, *average*, *bandage*, *bondage*, *cabbage*, *carnage*, *damage*, *dotage*, *envisage*, *footage*, *forage*, *garbage*, *homage*, *hostage*, *image*, *leverage*, *marriage*, *message*, *mileage*, *orphanage*, *percentage*, *pillage*, *presage*, *salvage*, *savage* and *village*.

4 Words ending in “-ette”.

This ending means “small” in French, a meaning that is still present in English borrowings, despite not always being obvious. Relevant words include *briquette*, *cigarette*, *courgette*, *etiquette*, *maisonette*, *palette*, *pipette*, *pirouette*, *rosette*, *roulette*, *serviette* and *silhouette*.

5 Words Ending in “-re”.

English has both *-er* and *-re* words, but pronounces both endings the same. The former are more common, though, and seem more logical to many (American English has indeed changed many *-re* spellings to *-er*). The main reason for the existence of *-re* endings is that they originate in French, where *-er* is pronounced differently.

Common *-re* words are *centre, fibre, genre, litre, lustre, manoeuvre, metre, sceptre* and *spectre*. Note that *metre* names the distance whereas *meter* means a measuring instrument.

6 Words containing “ois” or “oir”.

The English pronunciation of “oi” usually rhymes with *boy*, as in *join*. In French, however, it is /w/ followed by either a short /ʌ/ vowel or a long /a:/ one. The former is used with “ois”, the latter with “oir”. English tends to follow suit (except with “oist” words like *moist*). Thus, *bourgeois* is pronounced “borzch-wuh” /bɔ: ʒwʌ/ and *reservoir* is “re-zu-vwah” /re zɒ vwa:/. Other English words like this are *patois, abattoir, boudoir, memoire* and *repertoire*.

7 Words with “que” pronounced /k/.

The already-mentioned words *briquette, etiquette, croquet* and *tourniquet* are in this category. Many others end in either *-ique* (/i:k/) or *-esque* (/esk/). Examples of the former are *antique, boutique, critique, mystique, oblique, physique, pique, technique* and *unique*. Examples of the latter are *burlesque, picturesque* and *Romanesque*. Also notable are *baroque, liqueur, plaque* and *risqué* (/ris'kei/).

8 Words beginning with “sur-”.

In French, *sur* is a preposition meaning “on” or “over”. Most English words beginning with *sur-* seem to come from French and hence to have a hint of these meanings. Examples are *surcharge, surface, surfeit, surmount, surname, surplus, surprise, surround, surtax, survey* and *survive*.

The underlining shows which syllable is stressed. In most cases, nouns stress *sur-* and verbs do not. *Survey* changes its stress according to whether it is a noun or a verb.

9 Words with a Silent Last Consonant.

This category has already been illustrated above by words ending in *-et* (#2) and *-oir* or *-ois* (#6). Also notable is the French spelling *-eur* (pronounced like /ɜ/ sound of *her*), which indicates someone who does something, rather like *-er*. It is found in *chauffeur, entrepreneur, liqueur* and *voyeur*. The combination *-ez* is found in *rendezvous* and *laissez-faire*. It represents the vowel sound /eɪ/, with no pronunciation of the “z”. The *-s* at the end of the former is also silent.

Other English words that keep a silent French consonant at the end include *coup, debris, depot, fracas* and *rapport*. In *corps*, the “p” and “s” are both silent.

10 Other spellings.

The combination *eau* is found in *plateau*, *tableau* and *beauty*. In the first two its pronunciation (like “o” in *home*) is still French-like, but in the last it has changed to /ju:/.

The underlined parts of *lieutenant* and *manoeuvre* are also pronounced differently in French and English – but are still not as expected in English. The first is /lef-/ in Britain and /lu:/ in America; the second is /u:/ in both.

The French ending *-ine* rhymes with *mean*, not *mine*. English words with it include *aubergine*, *chlorine*, *cuisine*, *limousine*, *magazine*, *margarine*, *marine*, *pristine* and *routine*.

In English, “ch” is usually pronounced /tʃ/ as in *church* or /k/ as in *chorus*. In French borrowings, however, it is pronounced like *sh*. Examples are *cache*, *chalet*, *champagne*, *charade*, *chauffeur*, *chic* and *ricochet*.

Finally, *-ale* is pronounced in the French way /ɑ:l/ in *rationale*, and *-gn-* is the French /nj/ in *poignant* (where the *oi* is nevertheless as in *boy*).

How to Recognise English Words of Greek Origin

Being able to recognise that a word is of Greek origin can help you to spell and pronounce it correctly. This is because these aspects follow fairly reliable rules. The main clues that a word is of Greek origin are the following:

1 Special Letter Combinations.

Many of these involve the letter “p”. It combines with “h” in words like *philosophy*, *phrase*, *sphere*, *emphasis*, *graph*, *nymph*, *symphony* and *aphrodisiac*. In addition, there are “ps” combinations – most disconcertingly at the start of words (*psychology*, *psalm*, *pseudonym*), but also in the middle (*rhapsody*) – and also “pn” and “pt”, mostly at the beginning of words (*pneumatic*, *pneumonia*, *pterodactyl*, *helicopter*, *symptom*).

The letter “y” used as a vowel is also a good clue to a Greek origin, though it is not entirely reliable. It is not Greek at the end of adjectives (*happy*, *easy*, *ready*) and many nouns (*discovery*, *itinerary*) and in the *-ly* and *-fy* endings, nor in short words like *my*, *why*, *shy* and *sky*. Words where it is of Greek origin are *abyss*, *analyse*, *psychology*, *hypocrite*, *hypnotise*, *pyramid*, *hyperactive*, *mystery*, *rhythm*, *syndrome*, *syringe*, *cycle* and *cyst*.

The “ch” spelling is also variably indicative of a Greek origin. It is Greek in *anarchy*, *anchor*, *character*, *chiropody*, *choir*, *cholesterol*, *chorus*, *Christmas*, *chrome*, *epoch*, *orchestra*, *psychology* and *scheme*; but it is not Greek in *chicken*, *church*, *chain*, *change*, *chief*, *chimney*, *lychee*, *fetch* and *inch*.

Many words with “th” come from Greek, e.g. *mathematics*, *theme*, *thesis*, *theatre*, *thermal*, *ethics*, *myth*, *sympathise* and *labyrinth*. Finally, the combination “rh” is highly indicative of a Greek origin. It exists in words like *rheumatism*, *diarrhoea*, *rhythm*, *rhapsody* and *rhetoric*.

2 Greek Word Endings.

Most nouns become plural by adding *-s* to their singular form, but not all do. Two of the exceptional categories are nouns of Greek origin whose singular forms end in either *-on* or *-is* – words like *automaton*, *criterion*, *phenomenon*, *oasis*, *diagnosis*, *emphasis*, *thesis*, *hypothesis*, *parenthesis*, *synthesis*, *analysis*, *metamorphosis*, *axis* and *crisis*. The *-on* ending becomes *-a* in the plural, the *-is* one *-es* (pronounced /i:z/). The underlined *-is* words are usable as “action” nouns – uncommon for words not of Latin origin.

A common noun ending in Greek is *-ma*. These letters at the end of an English noun tend to indicate a Greek origin. Examples are *cinema*, *coma*, *drama*, *enigma*, *magma*, *panorama*, *stigma* and *trauma*. There are also some English words that have dropped the *-a* and just end with *-m*, e.g. *axiom*, *phlegm*, *poem*, *problem*, *spasm*, *sperm*, *symptom* and *theme*. The underlined words in both lists can be made into English adjectives ending *-atic* – another indicator of a Greek origin. Additional words with it include *automatic*, *emphatic* and *rheumatic* (but not the Latin-derived *erratic*).

Many other adjectives with *-ic* show a Greek origin. Common ones are *analytic*, *archaic*, *comic*, *cosmic*, *economic*, *fantastic*, *gastric*, *graphic*, *historic*, *histrionic*, *ironic*, *manic*, *panoramic*, *pathetic*, *periodic*, *photographic*, *poetic*, *politic*, *scenic*, *strategic*, *synthetic* and *tragic*. Going against this trend, though, are quite a few *-ic* adjectives of Latin rather than Greek origin, for example *civic*, *frantic*, *linguistic*, *prolific*, *specific*, *terrific* and *Teutonic*.

In addition to adjectives, *-ic* is found on many nouns of Greek origin. Examples include *antic*, *comic*, *critic*, *graphic*, *ethic*, *heretic*, *logic*, *mimic*, *music*, *mystic*, *rhetoric*, *statistic*, *synthetic*, *tactic* and *topic*.

Another adjective ending that commonly shows a Greek origin is *-ical*. It makes adjectives out of nouns ending in *-ology*, e.g. *biological*, *psychological* and *sociological*, and out of some other nouns too, such as *geographical*, *pharmaceutical*, *symmetrical*, *theatrical* and *typical*. However, there are also some *-ical* words that are not of Greek origin, including *farical*, *medical* and *radical*.

The *-al* ending, common on both nouns and adjectives in English, is not specific to words of Greek origin, but quite commonly makes adjectives out of Greek *-ic* words. Examples are *comical*, *critical*, *economical*, *ethical*, *graphical*, *heretical*, *historical*, *logical*, *mathematical*, *musical*, *mystical*, *political*, *rhetorical*, *statistical*, *tactical*, *topical*.

The links in the above lists are to explanations of confusing pairs like *economic/economical*.

3 Greek Word Beginnings.

Latin prepositions are found at the beginning of many English words taken from Latin. The same is true of Greek prepositions. Common ones are *ana-*, *anti-*, *apo-*, *dia-*, *en-/em-*, *epi-*, *hypo*, *hyper-*, *meta-*, *para-*, *peri-*, *pro-* and *syn-/sym-*. Recognising any of these at the beginning of a word can greatly help its identification as Greek.

Examples of words starting with a Greek preposition are *analysis*, *anatomy*, *antithesis*, *antonym*, *apology*, *apostle*, *diabetes*, *dialogue*, *emblem*, *empathy*, *epoch*, *epistle*, *epitome*, *hypodermic*, *hypothesis*, *hyperbole*, *metabolism*, *metaphor*, *paradox*,

paralyse, parallel, paraphrase, perimeter, period, problem, prophylaxis, symbol, synonym and *synchronise*. The word *hyphen* begins with a modified form of *hypo*. *Parenthesis* combines *para-* (= beside) and *-en-* (= inside) with *-thesis* (= placement).

Sometimes the rest of a word after a Greek preposition is itself a possible English word, so that the preposition is acting like a true prefix. Examples are *para-medic* and *hyper-inflation*. Some other English prefixes are also of Greek origin, for example *auto-* (= “self-“), *pseudo-* (= “pretending”) and *a-* (= “not”). Words with the latter include *amorphous, apathetic, apolitical, asexual, atheist* and *atypical* (but not Latin-derived *abnormal*).

4 Medical Terms.

Medicine is an area where Greek words are especially abundant. Examples are *anatomy, antigen, artery, bacteria, cholesterol, dermatology, diarrhoea, gene, larynx, microscope, neurosis, oesophagus, parasite, pathology, physiology, rhesus, sclerosis, syndrome, syringe, thermometer* and *thrombosis*.

The *-osis* ending (sometimes spelt *-asis*) means “present and troublesome” and is used to describe a wide range of illnesses (*thrombosis* for example is the presence of a troublesome blood clot). *-osis* can even be combined with a non-Greek root, as in *tubercul-osis*.

Scandinavian Influence on English Vocabulary

The Scandinavians were not superior to the English in terms of culture and civilization. So, there was no large-scale borrowing of loan words observed. However, in certain spheres borrowings went on smoothly. The influence of Scandinavian conquest is seen in three areas:

- 1 Certain place names and proper names.
- 2 Introduction of new words of Danish origin.
- 3 Modification in respect to grammar and syntax as well as pronunciation.

Scandinavian Influence on Place Names

Certain names of places ending in “by”, “thorp”, “beck”, “dale”, etc. show Scandinavian influence. For example, Whitby, Goldthorp, etc. This shows that a great number of Scandinavian families settled permanently in England. A similar influence is observed in the case of personal names ending in “-son” such as Gibson, Thomson, Johnson, etc.

Scandinavian Law Terms and War Terms

The attempt of the Scandinavians to impose their own Danish law on England is evident from the number of Scandinavian law terms that have entered the language. For instance, “law”, “by-law”, “thrall”, and “crave” are all Scandinavian words. There were many more such words which went out of usage after the Norman Conquest when the French took over the nation and replaced the terms with French loans.

As the Scandinavians were superior in military affairs, the English borrowed from them a few words like “orrest” (battle), “lith” (fleet), and “barda” (a type of warship). However, these words also disappeared after the Norman conquest.

Scandinavian Influence on General Vocabulary

Though the Scandinavians were not very superior in architecture or cooking, some words were adopted by the English. For instance, window, steak and knife. Interestingly, the Scandinavian influence was more pronounced in matters of everyday use.

Nouns: Among nouns that came to be borrowed were “husband”, “fellow”, “sky”, “sister”, and “want”.

Adjectives: Among adjectives, there were words like “meek”, “low”, “ill”, “happy”, “rotten”, “scant”, and “seemly”.

Verbs: Common verbs were also adopted such as “call”, “thrive”, “take”, “give”, “thrust”, and “die”.

Other loan words: pronouns such as “they”, “them”, “their”, conjunctions like “though”, prepositions like “fro”, “till” and adverbs like “thence”, “whence” and “hence”.

The influence appears to be so natural that no English man can thrive, be happy, fall ill or even die without Scandinavian influence! Warfare was a special area where the Danes excelled.

Influence on Grammar and Syntax

The Scandinavian influence not only affected the English vocabulary but extended to English grammar and syntax. The influence on the use of inflections is remarkable in this context. Some instances may be cited as follows:

1 The -s of the third person singular, present indicative and the participle ending is due to Scandinavian influence.

2 The final “t” in neuter adjective ending of Old Norse is preserved in words like “scant”, “want”, “athwart”.

3 With a few exceptions (take, thrive) almost all verbs that are strongly inflected in Scandinavian have been made weak in conjugation in English. For example, the word die was a strong verb in Scandinavian but in English conjugation, it has become a weak verb “died”.

4 Scandinavian nominative ending -r in nouns (byr) was dropped in English (by).

5 Although there is an absence of definite evidence, few observations are possible in terms of Scandinavian influence on syntax:

6 Relative clauses without any pronoun are very rare in O.E. but they become very common in Middle English due to Scandinavian influence.

7 The use of “shall” and “will” in Middle English corresponds to Scandinavian usage.

8 The universal position of the genitive case before its noun is due to Scandinavian influence, while in Old English it was very often placed before the noun.

The Differences in British and American Spelling

When it comes to the differences in British English and American English spellings even Brits get caught out occasionally. The main difference is that British English keeps the spelling of words it has absorbed from other languages, mainly French and German. Whilst American English spellings are based mostly on how the word sounds when it is spoken.

English was introduced to what is modern day America in the 17th century by the British settlers. Since then the language has evolved and has been influenced by the many waves of immigration to the USA.

The spelling of British English words were cemented by Samuel Johnson in what is considered to be one of the most famous dictionaries in the world. It took Johnson, and six helpers, just over eight years to curate the 40,000 words that appeared in “A Dictionary of the English Language”, which was published in 1755.

Similarly in America “A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language” was first printed in 1806 and popularised the American English spellings that were being used instead of the British English spellings of words, such as color instead of colour.

The author was Noah Webster who followed up the original dictionary in 1828 with his ‘*An American Dictionary of the English Language*’ which had over 70,000 words.

British English words ending in ‘*our*’ usually end in ‘*or*’ in American English:

British	US
colour	color
flavour	flavor
humour	humor
labour	labor
neighbour	neighbor

Verbs in British English that can be spelled with either ‘*ize*’ or ‘*ise*’ at the end are always spelled with ‘*ize*’ at the end in American English:

British	US
apologize or apologise	apologize
organize or organise	organize
recognize or recognise	recognize

Verbs in British English that end in ‘*yse*’ are always spelled ‘*ize*’ in American English:

British	US
analyse	analyze
breathalyse	breathalyze
paralyse	paralyze

In British spelling 'L' is doubled in verbs ending in a vowel plus 'L'. In American English, the 'L' is not doubled:

British	US
<i>travel</i>	<i>travel</i>
travelled	traveled
travelling	traveling
traveller	traveler

British English words that are spelled with the double vowels *ae* or *oe* tend to be just spelled with an *e* in American English: Although there are exceptions to the rule. For example archaeology is spelt in the same way as British English but archeology would be acceptable in America but is incorrect in the UK.

British	US
leukaemia	leukemia
manoeuvre	maneuver
oestrogen	estrogen
paediatric	pediatric

Some nouns that end with 'ence' in British English are spelled 'ense in American English:'

British	US
defence	defense
licence	license
offence	offense
pretence	pretense

Some nouns that end with 'ogue' in British English end with either 'og' or 'ogue in American English:

British	US
analogue	analog or analogue
catalogue	catalog or catalogue
dialogue	dialog or dialogue

British Traditions and UK Culture

What comes to mind when you think of British culture? Probably quite differing traditional stereotypes. On the one hand, you might think of James Bond ordering a sophisticated Martini or of stylish celebs attending Wimbledon. While on the other, you might think of the eccentric capers of Mr. Bean. The UK is a multi-nation, multi-ethnic land of diversity and contrast. And yet you'll find it hard to meet a Brit who doesn't love a good cup of tea with a nice chocolate biscuit.

1 Awkward greetings.

There are no strict rules for greeting somebody in the UK, the only essential element is that it's awkward. In a country like Spain, the social rules for handshakes or

giving two kisses are quite clear. In the UK, greetings can range from a formal handshake to a hug to a nod of the head or perhaps just a simple “Hello”. Such lack of guidance spells social disaster, as one person goes in for a hug while the other is offering a reserved head nod. The result is embarrassment for everybody, and thus a typical British interaction has begun! Try to minimise the awkwardness by at least having some greeting expressions up your sleeve.

2 Tea (and biscuits, obviously).

It’s not just a stereotype. When asked about quintessentially British customs, almost all respondents to my question immediately mentioned drinking a nice cuppa. The word “cuppa” (/ˈkʌpə/) is a common way to refer to a cup of tea, as when you pronounce the expression “cup of tea”, it sounds more like “cuppa tea”. And it’s true that the humble cup of tea forms the basis of many British social interactions. Most Brits drink tea for breakfast, more tea during work breaks, tea before bed, tea when the neighbours visit, tea during a meeting, tea to help decide how to solve a crisis ... you get the idea. And let’s not forget the great British art of “dunking”: this means dipping sugary biscuits into tea before eating them.

3 Going to the pub.

The main British tradition is going to the pub. Many people have their “local”, meaning the pub that they go to most regularly and where they know the staff and the other customers. It’s not all about drinking though. A trip to the pub can involve playing darts, watching sports on TV, eating some “pub grub” (that’s the name for food served in a pub), or maybe even taking part in a challenging pub quiz.

4 Paying for drinks in rounds.

If you decide to try out British pub culture, you need to be aware of the other British tradition of buying drinks in rounds. This means that rather than ordering your drink individually, it’s much more common to order (and pay) for the entire group. Your fellow drinkers will return the favour when they buy your next drink, and the next after that, depending on how many people are in the group. Just be careful: if you’re not as used to alcohol as your colleagues, going out with a big group could lead to a pretty bad hangover the following day! Or if you’ve had enough, you can feel free to go home. The people who owe you drinks will (usually) remember to buy you one the next time you’re in the pub together.

5 Saying sorry.

In any situation that goes wrong, it is the automatic reaction of most Brits to say sorry, regardless of whether they are at fault. Jane says that if she’s getting off the tube and a man bumps into her while he rushes into the carriage, her instinctive reaction is to exclaim “Oooh, sorry!”, even though she clearly hasn’t done anything wrong. Things get even more bizarre than that. People in office corridors walk past each other and whisper “sorry!” even when there is plenty of room for them both to pass; my ex-flatmate in London once unthinkingly apologised to a dog which had run into her leg.

6 Identifying accent.

A suggestion from various colleagues was the British custom of trying to place a person based on their accent. Of course, this tendency exists in every country but it's true that the UK seems to have a particular wealth of distinguishable regional accents. So when one Londoner meets another, it's quite possible that they will automatically know which general part of the city the other is from, just from accent. This phenomenon is not limited to big cities, with many rural areas having their own distinct accents. This means that Brits often talk about accents to break the ice in social gatherings, for example:

Jeff: *So, would I be right in guessing that you're from Cornwall, Harold?*

Harold: *Oh, close enough. I'm actually from Devon.*

7 Identifying class.

The Brits are obsessed with class. One important factor in this sphere is, again, accent. For example, if somebody has attended a public school (this is - confusingly - the name for an expensive private school in the UK), they have a very recognisable accent. Often, a person's class is assumed by their accent or family connections rather than their actual bank balance. The British tend to speak about class quite openly and even consider certain supermarkets, newspapers, or social activities to be dictated by a person's class. All of this means that silently guessing a person's class is one of Brits' favourite hobbies.

8 Sunbathing, wherever, whenever.

A final custom is the British tendency to sunbathe at any sight of sun. Perhaps this is a biological necessity, a behaviour common to all people from sun-deprived nations. Any sunny day in the UK with a temperature of over 18 degrees leads to mass delirium. That means people unbuttoning their shirts, rolling up their trousers and stopping everything to sit in the sun, whether they're in a park, in a city square, at a bus stop, literally anywhere outdoors. And who could blame them for making the most of the British sunshine? Perhaps less healthy is when Brits do the same while on holiday in a hot country like Spain and instead of a sun-kissed glow, end up with an unfortunate "gamba" red!

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