

# **Origin, development, and global spread of English**

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# Position of English in the world

- **most widely spoken language** in the world
- global **lingua franca**
- **first language** in Britain, Ireland, the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, many Caribbean Countries
- third most common **native language**  
(after Mandarin Chinese and Spanish)
- **official language** of 60 states, EU, world organizations
- most popular **second language**



The Anglosphere: countries where English is spoken natively by the majority of the population

# **Historical development - linguistic changes**

phonetic, phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic

- spelling
- enrichment of vocabulary (French, Latin, Scandinavian)
- typological change (synthetic > analytical)

## **Earliest history**

- Indo-European family of languages
- Hypothetical common ancestor: Proto-Indo-European

# Periodization of the English Language

*BC Before Christ = BCE Before the Common Era*

*AD Anno Domini = CE the Common Era*

Periods of development	Beginning
Proto-Indo-European	6000–5500 BC?
Proto-Germanic Pre-Proto-Germanic Proto-Germanic →	3500 BC 3500 BC 500 BC
Old English	450 AD
Middle English	1100-1150 AD
Modern English Early Modern English Modern English	1500 AD 1500–1700/1800) 1700/1800 →