

? > Celts > Romans > Anglo-Saxons > Vikings > Normans

Before the arrival of the Celts, we do not know which languages were spoken by the peoples who lived in Britain. The Celts were the first Indo-Europeans in Britain. Various Celtic tribes lived in Britain by 400 B.C.

Julius Caesar arrived in 55 B.C., and Britain was a _____ colony until A.D. 410.
By A.D.200, "Londinium" (London) was a city where both _____ was spoken.
The 4th Century Britons were a _____ population.

Around A.D. 449, Britain was invaded by the Jutes, Angles, Saxons, and Frisians, who were _____ speakers.
Because of the Anglo-Saxon invasion, the native Britons fled to Ireland, France (Brittany), and _____.
Even today, a Frenchman selling onions can speak with some people in the U.K. in their own _____ language.

The language of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms is called _____, especially the Wessex dialect.
Many of the _____ of English come from Anglo-Saxon words; e.g., *what, that, we, us, our, he, him, over, in, name, king*.

The conversion of Anglo-Saxons to Christianity resulted in the borrowing of many _____ words, e.g., *altar, angel, martyr*.

In 793, during the _____ invasion of Britain, the great monastery at Lindesfarne was destroyed.
Alfred the Great, the king of _____ was the only Anglo-Saxon king not conquered by the Vikings.
England became divided by a line, and the land northeast of the line became part of _____.
Around the year 1000, the ancestor of modern English was created in the little valleys inhabited by English and _____ farmers.
King Cnut (Knut) became the king of England in 1016, the king of Denmark in 1018, and the king of Norway in 1028.

In 1066, the Normans conquered England, and _____ became the language of government, law, and administration.
By 1155, the writing of _____ had ended, and English was no longer officially written (although it was still spoken).
There was a lot of _____ intermarriage, and about 10,000 new words were borrowed, so the English vocabulary became about twice as large as that of other European languages.
A 1362 statute (written in French!) said that all governmental and legal affairs must be conducted in English, although French continued to be the official language of English courts until 1731.
Geoffrey _____ was the first great author of genius to write in English, and we call his English of the Canterbury Tales "Middle English".

The great social changes of Elizabethan England resulted in the "Early Modern English" of William Shakespeare and the _____ Bible.

Historical stages of English language:

450–1100: Old English (Anglo-Saxon), the language of Beowulf, Alfred the Great, 1020 Charter of Cnut.

1100–1500: Middle English, the language of Geoffrey Chaucer.

1500–1650: Early Modern (Renaissance, Elizabethan) English, the language of the King James Bible, William Shakespeare.

1650–present: Modern English (Present-Day English), the language as spoken today.