

History of the English Language

I) English belongs to the Germanic languages branch of the Indo-European language family, widely spoken on six continents. 2) It is the primary language of the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and various Caribbean and Pacific island nations. 3) English is also an official language of India, the Philippines and many African countries. 4) Approximately 1.5 billion people speak English. 5) It is the mother tongue of more than 350 million people and the most widely taught foreign language.

6) The history of the English language started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. 7) These tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, crossed the North Sea from what today is Denmark and northern Germany. 8) At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. 9) But most of "the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders — mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. 10) The Angles came from England (which means "land of the Angles") and their language was Old English.

II) The Norman Conquest of 1066 brought many French words into English. 12) Greek and Latin words began to enter it in the 15th century, and Modern English is usually dated from 1500. 13) English easily borrows words from other languages and has coined many new words to reflect advances in technology.

14) Today, American English is more influential than British English, due to the USA's dominance of cinema, television, popular music, trade and technology (including the Internet). 15) But there are many other varieties of English around the world, including for example Australian English, New Zealand English, Canadian English, South African English, Indian English and Caribbean English.

I Study English

1) English is an international means of communication. 2) It is studied as a foreign language at secondary and higher schools of our country.

3) As for me I study the English language with pleasure, because I want to read great English writers' books in the original. 4) I would also like to communicate with people from different countries and understand their culture and traditions. 5) Knowing English well we are able to get a good education or a better job in any part of the world.

6) English is the world's first truly universal language. 7) Today there are approximately 1.5 billion English speakers. 8) At stations, airports and harbours we can find instructions in English. 9) Pilots and air traffic controllers, sailors speak English at all international airports and ports.

10) I began to study English at school and I'm studying it now at Vinnytsia National Agrarian University. 11) I study it every day because I want to have a good command of this foreign language.

12) I am sure if I work at it systematically as I do now I shall know the language very well. 13) I try to do my best to master English as quickly as possible. 14) I study pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. 15) I try to speak English with my teachers and with my friends. 16) I read much and do many language exercises. 17) I have many English books, newspapers and magazines. 18) I know that foreign languages are of great importance in our modern life.