

Historical Timeline of English Spelling

by Barbara Beers

I. 55BC - 426AD

A. The Romans in England.

B. The Teutons.

II. 500AD - 1100AD - Old English

A. The Angles and Saxons in England.

B. Christianity in England.

C. The Danish Invasions.

D. The Norsemen.

III. 1100 - 1500 AD - Middle English

A. The Norman Conquest.

IV. 1500 - 1800 AD - Early Modern English

A. Vocabulary changes.

B. Syntax changes.

C. Pronunciation changes.

D. Historical changes.

V. 1800 - Present - Late Modern English

A. Synonyms on three levels:

Popular

Literary

Learned

B. Vocabulary changes due to important historical factors.