Language

History and Change
Family Trees
Sir William Jones suggested that a number of languages from very different geographical areas must have some in common.
Proto-Indo-European

- Balto-Slavic
  - Baltic
  - Slavic
- Indo-Iranian
  - Indic
  - Iranian

Germanic
- German
- English
- Dutch
- Danish
- Swedish
- Norwegian
- etc.

Celtic
- Gaelic
- Irish
- Welsh
- etc.

Italic
- Latin
- Ancient Greek

Hellenic
- Greek
- Latvian
- Russian
- Polish
- Lithuanian
- Czech
- Bulgarian
- etc.

Balto-Slavic
- Baltic
- Slavic

Indo-Iranian
- Indic
- Iranian
- Sanskrit
- Hindi
- Bengali
- Persian

etc.
## Family Connections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanskirt</th>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>Greek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pitar</td>
<td>pater</td>
<td>pater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bhratarar</td>
<td>frater</td>
<td>phrater</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cognates

A cognate of a word in one language is a word in another language that has similar form and is or was used with a similar meaning, as

father, mother, friend, brother (English)
vater, mutter, freund, bruder (German)
Comparative Reconstruction

It is a procedure that is used to reconstruct the original (proto) form in the common ancestral language. There are two principles:

- majority principle
- most natural development principle
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cantare</td>
<td>cantar</td>
<td>chanter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catena</td>
<td>cadena</td>
<td>chaine</td>
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<tr>
<td>cavallo</td>
<td>caballo</td>
<td>cheval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>word</td>
<td>meaning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mube</td>
<td>(stream)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>mupe</td>
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<tr>
<td>mup</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>abadi</td>
<td>(rock)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abati</td>
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<tr>
<td>apat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agana</td>
<td>(knife)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>akana</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>akan</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>enugu</td>
<td>(diamond)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enuku</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>enuk</td>
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</table>
Language Change

It is variation over time in a language's phonetic, morphological, semantic, syntactic, and other features.
Causes of language change

- Economy
- Analogy
- Language contact
- The medium of communication
- Cultural environment
- Migration / Movement
- Invasion / colonialism
Old English ( Anglo-Saxon )

English language comes from the Germanic languages spoken by three tribes from northern Europe in the fifth century; Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

In eighth to tenth centuries, the language (Old Norse) of Viking who settled in the coastal regions of Britain was the fourth source for English.
Anglo-Saxon refers to the period of the history of the part of Great Britain that became known as England. Anglo-Saxon is a general term referring to the Germanic peoples who came to Britain during the 5th and 6th centuries, including Angles, Saxons, Frisii and Jutes. The term also refers to the language spoken at the time in England, which is now called Old English.
Anglo-Saxon Migration
5th century

Based on Jones & Mattingly's Atlas of Roman Britain, Haywood's Dark Age Naval Power, Lebedev's The Northern Seas (Fifth to Eighth Centuries), Wood's The Channel from the 4th to the 6th centuries AD, and Davies' Annals and the Origin of Mercia.
The event that marks the end of the Old English period and the beginning of the Middle English period is the arrival of the Norman French in England and their victory at Hastings under William the Conqueror in 1066.
French became the language of nobility, the government, the law and civilized life in England. The language of peasants remained English. The peasants worked on the land and reared sheep, cows and swine.
Sound Changes

Some changes occurred from Middle to Modern English. Some sounds disappeared resulting in the ‘silent letters’.

Word initial velar stop /K/ and /g/ are not pronounced before /n/.
**Metathesis**
reversal in position of two sounds in a word,
frist $\rightarrow$ first           hros $\rightarrow$ horse

**Epenthesis**
addition of a sound to the middle of a word,
spinel $\rightarrow$ spindle        timr $\rightarrow$ timber

**Prothesis**
addition of a sound to the beginning of a word,
schola $\rightarrow$ escuela
Syntactic Changes

Changes that involve differences between the structure of sentences in Old and Modern English.

- The subject may follow the verb or the object could be placed before the verb in Old English.
- Double negation was possible in Old English.
- Loss of a large number of inflectional affixes from many parts of speech.
Semantic Changes

- Borrowing

Arts (e.g. concerto, allegro, tempo, aria, opera, soprano) are borrowed from Italian and ‘ballet’ from French.

Business - English exports English terms to other languages in business and technology (examples le meeting to French).

Philosophy - derive from Greek dominance in philosophy, mathematics, linguistics, economic theory.

Examples include democracy, theory and so on.
Religion - religions may carry with them a large number of technical terms from the language of the originating culture.

For example: Arabic (Islam) - Arabic words like *hijab*.
Greek (Christianity) - Likewise Greek words like *baptisma* have entered many languages as *baptism* or similar.

Hebrew (Judaism) - Some terms in the Hebrew Bible have been carried into other languages due to being borrowed rather than translated in Bible translations. For example Hebrew *shabbat* ("day of rest") has been borrowed into most languages in the world: in Greek the word is *Σάββατο*; Latin *sabbato*; Spanish *sábado*; and in English Sabbath.
Latin (Catholicism) - Latin words like *missa* and *communio* have entered English as *mass* and *communion.*

Sanskrit (Hinduism) - words like *guru* (*teacher*)

Science (Latin) - medicine (itself a Latin loanword) uses a large vocabulary of Latin terms (*sternum*, *appendix*), as a result of medieval advances in medical science being conducted in Latin - even if some of the earliest Latin medical texts were translations from Greek and Arabic.
Broadening

The process by which the meaning of a word becomes broader or more inclusive than its earlier meaning. Also known as *generalization* or *extension*.

‘holy day’ is nowadays used to refer to ‘holiday’ or any general break from work.
narrowing takes place when a word comes to refer to only part of the original meaning. The history of the word *hound* in English neatly illustrates this process. It was the generic word for any kind of dog at all. In German, where the word *Hund* simply means 'dog.' Over the centuries, however, the meaning of *hound* in English has become restricted to just those dogs used to chase.

Example - *wife* could be used to refer to any woman.