



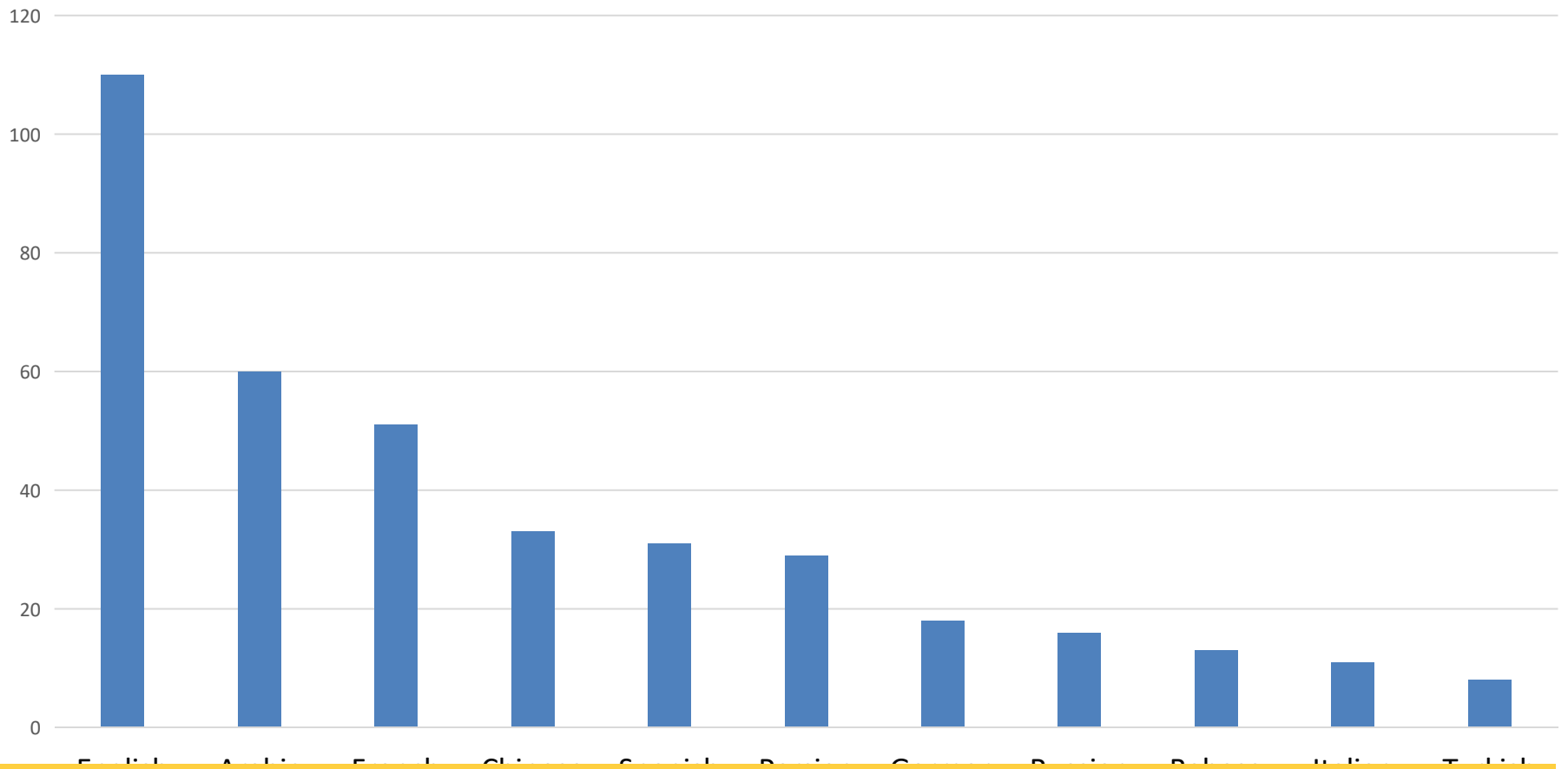
The Road to Modern English

Warming-up

1. Why do you learn English? What's the benefit of learning a foreign language?

- have deep insight into another culture
- reach out to others and form new friendship
- communicate with people worldwide
- open up a whole new dimension in education
- contribute to intellectual growth
- increase job opportunities in careers

Number of countries in which this language is spoken



3. According to Paragraph 2, could native English speakers understand each other?

Sonnet 18

Shall I compare **you** to a summer's day?

a

You are more lovely and more temperate.

b

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,

a

And summer's lease **have** all too short a date.

b

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,

c

And often is his gold complexion **dim**d;

d

And every fair from fair sometime declines,

e

By chance, or nature's changing course, **untrim**d

e

But thy eternal summer shall not **fade**,

f

Nor lose possession of that fair thou **ow**'st,

g

Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his **shade**,

h

When in eternal lines to time thou **grow**'st.

i

So long as man can breathe or eyes can see,

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

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While-reading

1. Why has English changed over time?

Actually all languages change and develop when cultures meet and communicate with each other

2. Read Paragraph 3-5, figure out how English changed over time.

- (1) **When** did the changes happen?
- (2) What's **special** about English at that time?
- (3) What's the **driving factor** behind the change?

Information & Culture

About AD 450 and 1150

The language was based more on German than modern English.

Politics



Germanic tribes came to flooding in like **the Angles and the Saxons**. They brought about many new vocab into daily life like “woman”, Four days of the week were named in honor of Anglo-Saxon gods.

Information & Culture

About AD 800 and 1150

The language was greatly enriched, especially its vocabulary.



William the Conqueror

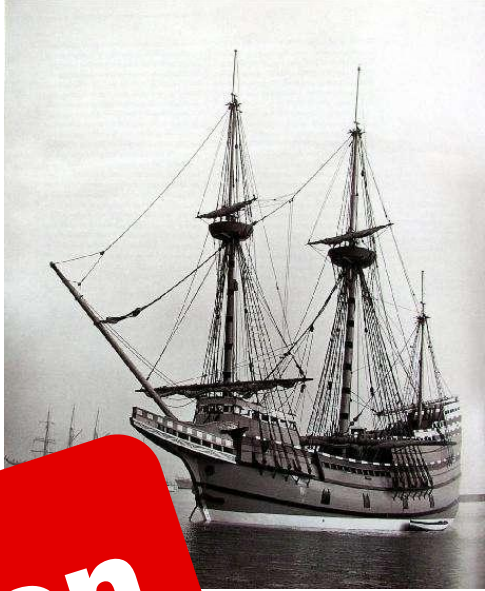
Politics

About AD 800, Britain was invaded by the **Vikings** (“die”, “drag”) and later in 1066 **William the Conqueror** invaded Britain and brought French into the language (“justice”, “beef”).

Information & Culture

About 17th to 18th century

The language was spoken in America and Australia .



Religion

British Puritans (清教徒) did not stand the rule of Catholics (天主教徒), so they took ships to America, the most famous of which is the May Flower.

Information & Culture

By the 19th century

The language was settled and two big changes in spelling happened.



Scholars

Samuel Johnson wrote a dictionary and **Noah Webster** wrote *The American Dictionary of the English Language*.

Information & Culture

Nowadays

The language spoken as a
foreign or second language
in South Africa

**Politics &
Economy**

India and South Africa was **governed** by
Britain and Malaysia as well as Singapore are
influenced by the Western World.



Driving Factors

Politics

After the 21th century, other factors, like technology, have great influence on the development of English, especially its vocabulary, which is shown by words such as “telephone”, “Internet”, “computer” and so on.

Economy

...

While-reading

3. How does the writer feel about Chinese English developing its own identity??

Uncertain/Not sure

4. How do you understand “**Only time will tell**”?

- **It's hard to know whether Chinese English will develop its own identity.**
- **It remains to be seen whether Chinese English will develop its own identity.**

1. What's the text type and what's the purpose?

- **Exposition**
- To **inform** readers the development of English

2. How does the author clarify the development of English?

- By listing numbers.
- By giving examples.
- By making contrast.
- By analyzing cause and effect.

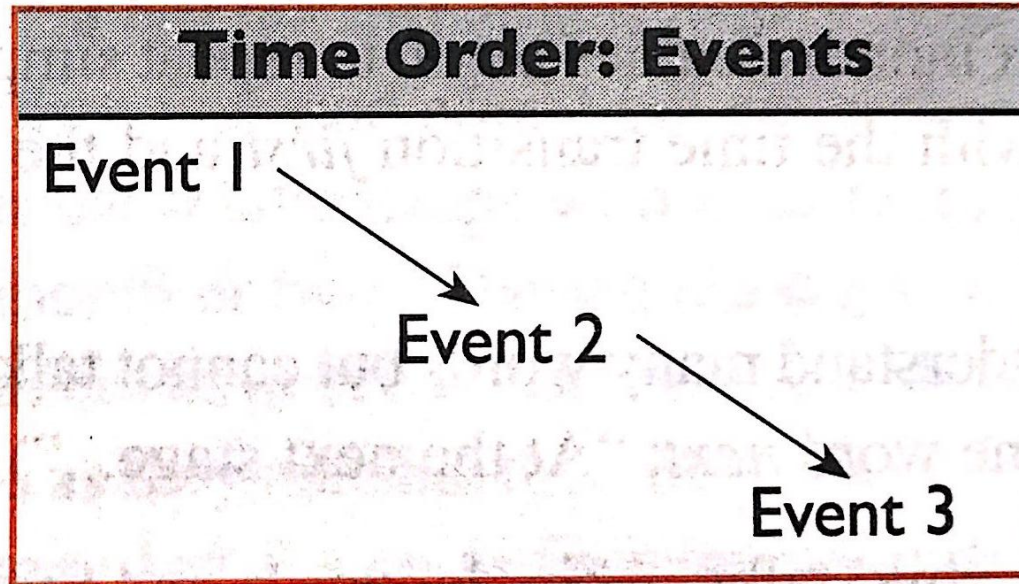
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So why has English changed over time? Actually all languages change and develop when cultures meet and communicate with each other. At first the English spoken in England **between about AD 450 and 1150** was very different from the English spoken today. It was based more on German than the English we speak at present. Then gradually **between about AD 500 and 1150**, English became less like German because those who ruled England spoke first Danish and later French. These new settlers enriched the English language and especially its vocabulary. So by the 1600's Shakespeare was able to make use of a wider vocabulary than ever before. **In 1620** some British settlers moved to America. Later **in the 18th century** some British people were taken to Australia too. English began to be spoken in both countries.

Finally **by the 19th century** the language was settled. At that time two big changes in English spelling happened: first Samuel Johnson wrote his dictionary and later Noah Webster wrote The American Dictionary of the English Language. The latter gave a separate identity to American English spelling.

English **now** is also spoken as a foreign or second language in South Asia. For example, India has a very large number of fluent English speakers because Britain ruled India from 1765 to 1947. During that time English became the language for government and education. English is also spoken in Singapore and Malaysia and countries in Africa such as South Africa. Today the number of people learning English in China is increasing rapidly. In fact, China may have the largest number of English learners. Will Chinese English develop its own identity? Only time will tell.

Structural Analysis



Time Words

before	during	while	later
previously	now	next	eventually
first	as	soon	finally
then	when	after	last
following			



2. How could we protect the dying languages to promote language diversity (多元化)?

- set up organizations
- teach at an early age
- document dying languages
- promote public awareness
- ...

