**Title: EARLY MODERN ENGLISH (1500-1800)**  
  
  
**1**  
EARLY MODERN ENGLISH (1500-1800)  
**2**  
1476 William Caxton starts printing in Westminster, however, the language he uses reflects the variety of styles and dialects used by the authors whose work he prints.  
1485 Tudor dynasty established start of period of (relative) political and social stability.  
1491 or 1492 Richard Pynson starts printing in London his style tends to prefer Chancery Standard, the form of English used by government.  
c. 1509 Pynson becomes the king's official printer  
From 1525 Publication of William Tyndale's Bible translation (which was initially banned).  
1539 Publication of the Great Bible, the first officially authorised Bible in English, edited by Myles Coverdale, largely from the work of Tyndale. This Bible is read to congregations regularly in churches, familiarising much of the population of England with a standard form of the language.  
1549 Publication of the first Book of Common Prayer in English, under the supervision of Thomas Cranmer. This book standardises much of the wording of church services. Since attendance at prayer book services was required by law for many years some have argued that the repetitive use of the language of the prayer book helped to standardize modern English  
**3**  
1557 Publication of Tottel's Miscellany.  
c. 1590 to c. 1612 William Shakespeare's plays written they are still widely read and familiar in the 21st century.  
1607 The first successful permanent English colony in the New World, Jamestown, is established in Virginia. The beginnings of American English.  
1611 The King James Bible is published, largely based on Tyndale's translation. It remains the standard Bible in the Church of England for many years.  
c. 16401660 Period of social upheaval in England (the English Civil War and the era of Oliver Cromwell).  
1651 Publication of Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes.  
1662 New edition of the Book of Common Prayer, largely based on the 1549 and subsequent editions. This also long remains a standard work in English  
1667 Publication of Paradise Lost, by John Milton.  
**4**  
Historical background - Renaissance

* After the decline of French in the Middle English  
  period, a new English standard began to develop.
* Two factors where highly influential in this  
  process
* 1. economic and cultural centre within the  
  East- Midlands triangle of Oxford-Cambridge- Londo  
  n.
* 2. introduction of the printing press.

**5**

* The Early Modern English period saw the  
  continuation of these processes and the  
  increasing social status of English as an effect  
  of printing and other far-reaching social,  
  political, religious, and cultural changes in the  
  Renaissance.
* In a nutshell, English established itself as a  
  standard language in the Early Modern English  
  period, but it was still in search of its  
  identity.

**7**  
The Renaissance - a short definition

* The period of Early Modern English is known as  
  the Renaissance.
* The English Renaissance lasted from about 1500 to  
  1650.

**8**  
But what does Renaissance mean?

* Name for this historical era simply means  
  rebirth it was coined by the French historian  
  Jules Michelet and was later used by Jacob  
  Burckhardt, a Swiss historian.
* The notion of rebirth triggered a great number of  
  cultural and political changes that mark the  
  progression towards modern life.

**9**

* These changes concern the structure and  
  organization of society, peoples world-views and  
  national identity, the organization of religious  
  life, and the development of literature and art.

**10**

* The Mid.Eng social system was based on the model  
  of feudalism and was centred around the three  
  estates of nobility, clergy, and peasants.
* In Early Modern English (EME), there was  
  tremendous political, economic, technological and  
  social change.
* These changes influenced the growth of
* English language by leaps and bounds.

**11**

* The Renaissance constituted the basis for the  
  Spanish and Portuguese exploration and  
  colonization of the Americas and Africa. Both of  
  these sea powers brought enormous riches from  
  these far-away continents to Europe.

**12**  
The protestant reformation

* In the domain of religion, the Renaissance period  
  saw the conversion of England into a Protestant  
  country.
* By 1539. English translation of bible flourished  
  in the churches.
* Queen Elizabeth 1 ascended the throne in 1558.

**13**

* Since she was a Protestant and the head of the  
  Church of England, she made England a Protestant  
  country.
* She faced a battle with Mary Tudor who tried to  
  restore Catholicism in Britain.

**15**  
The Elizabethan Age

* The reign of Elizabeth, however, was not only  
  stained by bloody battles and death but also a  
  period of a golden age of literature and poetry,  
  music, and architecture the Elizabethan Age.
* Elizabeth herself was a very well-read queen
* and promoted many cultural and academic
* activities.

**17**

* It is this period where the studies of modern  
  English literature started.
* The period was shaped by authors such as  
  Shakespeare, Spenser, Marlowe, or Jonson, who all  
  established landmarks in English literature.
* Shakespeare, obviously the most celebrated of  
  these authors had a considerable impact on the  
  English language.

**18**  
The growth of the United Kingdom

* The golden age of English literature and music  
  indicates that English society was on its way of  
  increasingly developing a strong sense of  
  national identity.

**19**

* Renaissance people started to focus on their own  
  national identity. The social, scientific, and  
  religious changes supported this growing sense of  
  national individuality.
* Thus, the Renaissance established the cultural  
  and political basis for the development of modern  
  nation states.

**20**  
Political expansion

* England began expanding overseas possession.
* To the east, its colonies expanded to India.
* To the west, it reached North America in 1584.  
  The first permanent settlement was in Jamestown,
* This took place during the reign of King James I

**21**

* James was the first king of the four countries of  
  the British Isles.
* It was during this phase that England started to  
  become an international power.
* However, in 1707 the United Kingdom was finally  
  established.

**22**

* The Union Flag of the United Kingdom of England  
  and Scotland

**23**  
The growing status of English

* During the Early Modern English period, the  
  status of English was extended dramatically.  
  After the decline of French in the mid-14th  
  century, English became the language of  
  administration and government. Latin, however,  
  remained the high-prestige lingua franca of  
  learning and wisdom.
* By the end of the Early Modern English period,  
  English pushed Latin out of the sociolinguistic  
  scene becoming itself the language of science.

**24**

* This increase in status, along with the political  
  development of England establishing trade and  
  colonies all over the globe, constitutes the  
  historical basis for English becoming a  
  world-wide language and a lingua franca of  
  business and science.
* All of the above mentioned historical changes led  
  to the predominant status of English as the only  
  H-language in Great Britain.

**25**  
The influence of printing

* The introduction of the technique of printing  
  must be regarded as a landmark in the spread of  
  written English.

**26**

* In the 150 years following the introduction of  
  the printing press, nearly 20000 books appeared.  
  Thanks to the printing press, books could be  
  produced more efficiently, and thus more people  
  got access to written texts.
* Printing, however, would not have been  
  influential, if no market had existed for the  
  dissemination of printed books. Printing was, of  
  course, subject to economic constraints the  
  books had to be sold to make printing a  
  flourishing business.
* Printers found a great number of customers in  
  the new merchant middle class, people who were  
  interested in learning and had the money to buy  
  books.

**27**

* The potential readership for books thus included  
  the upper and middle classes the classes that  
  were literate or increasingly became so.  
  Illiteracy was very high among the lower classes  
  and women.
* The new middle class were not learned people and  
  had no knowledge of Latin. They spoke vernacular  
  English and thus also wanted to read English  
  books.

**28**

* The increased availability of affordable English  
  books further increased the readership of these  
  books, which, consequently, increased the demand  
  for further books. In other words, printing  
  enhanced learning, which, in reverse enhanced  
  printing and the spread of written English.  
  Moreover, in the 16th century, pamphlets emerged  
  as an early form of mass media and around 1620,  
  the first newspapers appeared.

**29**

* Printing promoted the standardization process  
  since books had to be written in a style that  
  made them accessible to a large audience from  
  different dialect backgrounds. Thus, a number of  
  spelling rules had to be established by mutual  
  convention. As a result, a rudimentary  
  orthographic system emerged.

**30**  
The age of bibles

* The Early Modern period is also called the Age of  
  Bibles since in this period an massive number of  
  Bible translations appeared.
* Many discussions about gospel were made  
  accessible to the public by the reformers and  
  people themselves became interested in reading  
  the word of God.

**32**

* Most people attracted by Protestantism were of  
  humble origin and did not have classical  
  education in Latin. They spoke English only.
* Consequently, Bible translations were needed.  
  English Bibles raised the prestige of English in  
  general, whereas Latin was despised by many as  
  the language of the Pope.

**33**

* Among others, influential English Bibles such as  
  the Tyndale Bible, the Great Bible, the Geneva  
  Bible, or the Bishops Bible were written. In  
  1611, the King James Bible also known as the  
  Authorized Bible - was issued. This official  
  translation was worked out by 54 translators who  
  followed strict translation guidelines. The  
  translators aimed at a dignified and somewhat  
  archaic style. Therefore, the language  
  represented in this Bible is conservative.  
  Nevertheless, the many Bible translations provide  
  a very important corpus of written evidence on  
  the state of English in the Early Modern period.

**34**  
The influence of Shakespeare

* In contrast to the many Bible translations,  
  Shakespeares writing supplied English with a  
  great number of innovations.
* Shakespeare was one of the central figures to  
  promote the new genre of drama, which developed  
  out of medieval mystery and miracle plays. These  
  plays were originally performed during church  
  festivities and dramatized Biblical stories.
* In the 14th and 15th centuries these plays came  
  to be performed in front of churches on the  
  marketplace.

**35**

* Theatres and cultural activities centers began to  
  take place in 1574.
* This was the period of Shakespeare (1564-1616)

**37**

* On the basis of these older forms of performance,  
  a new form of drama was established during the  
  reign of Elizabeth I. The plays written by  
  Marlowe, Shakespeare, and Jonson were performed  
  by professional actors in public theatres
* Of course, Shakespeares Globe Theatre was the  
  most important and celebrated venue.

**38**

* Shakespeare wrote his plays as a basis for the  
  performance, but not to be published for readers.
* The plays belonged to the drama company, which  
  did not want them written down because it wanted  
  people come to the performance.

**39**

* Later his plays were published as a 'quarto'  
  edition.
* However, this edition was not edited by  
  Shakespeare himself but by company actors after  
  the performance. Only seven years after  
  Shakespeares death the plays appeared as more  
  carefully prepared 'folio' edition.

**40**

* The editions show that the language used by  
  Shakespeare was highly innovative. Through the  
  celebrated status of his works, a great deal of  
  this innovation flowed into the lexicon of  
  present day English. These Shakespearean  
  influences are known as Shakespearean Firsts.

**42**  
EME Lexicon

* EME lexicon was significantly enriched in  
  response to the expansion of Britain as a  
  superpower, improvements in communication, and  
  contribution from Shakespeare.
* Many new words were created and borrowed from  
  other countries

**43**  
New concepts - new words  
**44**

* The lexicon of Early Modern English, was greatly  
  enriched for more reasons than poetic innovation.
* Due to international trade and exploration,  
  English speakers made contact with speakers of  
  others languages who brought objects, substances,  
  plants, animals, etc. and corresponding concepts  
  to the continent from the Americas and Africa.
* These concepts were not known to European people  
  before therefore, they needed labeling. The most  
  simple thing to do in this case is to borrow the  
  label used in the original donor language. In  
  this way, a great many new words entered the  
  English vocabulary via Spanish, Arabic, Dutch,  
  Italian, etc.

**45**  
The influence of scientific writing

* There was a further realm of exploration and  
  innovation that led to the creation of many new  
  concepts science.
* Since the lingua franca of science was Latin  
  (interspersed with Greek terminology), a great  
  number of loan words entered English from there.
* Borrowing became particularly intensive when  
  English started to replace Latin as the language  
  of science by the end of the 17th century.

**46**

* It is significant, for instance, that Newton  
  wrote his Principia Mathematica in Latin (1685)
* But later published his Optics in English.

**48**  
The "Inkhorn Controversy"

* The influx of non-English, especially Latin,  
  vocabulary was not generally appreciated by all  
  speakers of English. Language purists such as  
  Thomas Wilson opposed this development fiercely  
  by disclaiming the use of these words as a matter  
  of snobbish intellectuals, so-called inkhorn  
  writers. Wilson stated

**49**

* Among all other lessons this should first be  
  learned, that wee never affect any strange  
  ynkehorne terms, but to speake as it is commonly  
  received neither seeking to be over fine, nor  
  yet living overcarelesse, using our speeche as  
  most men doe, and ordering our wittes as the  
  fewest have done. Some seeke so far for  
  outlandish English, that they forget altogether  
  their mothers language. And I deare sweare this,  
  if some of their mothers are alive, thei were not  
  able to tell what they say and yet these fine  
  English clerkes will say, they speake in their  
  mother tongue, if a man should charge them for  
  counterfeiting the Kings English.
* Thomas Wilson (The Arte of Rhetorique, 1553)

**50**

* Others, however, regarded this process more  
  positively by highlighting the importance of  
  those words for the English language. One of the  
  proponents in favour of loan words was George  
  Pettie

**51**

* Wherefore I marueile how our english tongue hath  
  crackt it credite, that it may not borrow of the  
  Latine as well as other tongues and if it haue  
  broken, it is but of late, for it is not vnknowen  
  to all men how many woordes we haue fetcht from  
  thence within these fewe yeeres, which if they  
  should be all counted inkpot termes, I know not  
  how we should speake any thing without blacking  
  our mouthes with inke for what woord can be more  
  plaine then this word plaine, and yet what can  
  come more neere to the Latine?
* George Pettie (Preface to The ciuile
* conuersation of M. Steeuen Guazzo, 1581)

**53**

* The Inkhorn Controversy, basically just being a  
  dispute about what good English is and how good  
  English should be spoken, nicely reflects the  
  sociolinguistic status of English in the Early  
  Modern English period.

**54**

* For most educated people, Latin still had the  
  aura of the stylistic and rhetorical role model.  
  If anything sensible should be written in  
  English, it should follow the prestigious model  
  of Latin.
* On the other hand, English was in the process of  
  becoming much more self-confident and not  
  dependent on the lexical support of Latin.

**55**

* In other words, the Inkhorn controversy reflects  
  the search for a strong English linguistic  
  identity, but it also shows that this linguistic  
  identity had always been subject to influences  
  from a great number of other languages.
* Moreover, the statements show that English was in  
  search for linguistic authority because a  
  generally acknowledged standard had not been  
  established yet.

**56**  
Overview  
**57**  
LINGUISTIC DEVELOPMENTS

* By EME, the structure of the standard language  
  was very close to Present Day English (PDE)
* There were still some changes taking place such  
  as Great Vowel Shift (GVS), morphology, syntax,  
  consonants and vowels
* But the variation from PDE is considered slight

**58**  
Two important linguistic changes

* 1- The Great Vowel Shift
* The Standard British English arose from GVS.
* The changes that took place is the set of long  
  vowels
* The table below summarizes these changes in  
  chronological order.

**60**

* Although it is difficult to reconstruct the  
  actuation of this sound change, it is probable  
  that its origin lay in sociolinguistic variation  
  and stratification in the London area of the  
  early 16th century.

**61**

* For lower class speakers there seemed to be a  
  tendency to use long mid-close vowels in words  
  where long mid-open vowels would be expected in  
  London Middle English
* Thus, this pronunciation change can be regarded  
  as a push mechanism

**62**

* 2- "Do" - the origin of the dummy auxiliary
* The development of the dummy auxiliary do  
  reflects the process of grammaticalisation, i.e.  
  the process of a content word acquiring the  
  status of a grammatical function word. In the  
  grammar of PDE, do must be used as a content less  
  grammatical operator in the following contexts
* a) Negation I do not know. b) Question Do  
  you know? c) Question-tag You know, do you? d)  
  Emphatic do I do know this.