

Today is

**“English
day”**



THE DAY OF ENGLISH

On **13th October** 1362 the Chancellor of England for the first time opened Parliament with a speech in English. In that same Parliament, a *Statute of Pleading* was approved that permitted members in debate to use the English language. It had become again an official language of law and law-making.

Until then, French had been dominant due to the ancestry of the noblemen of the time.

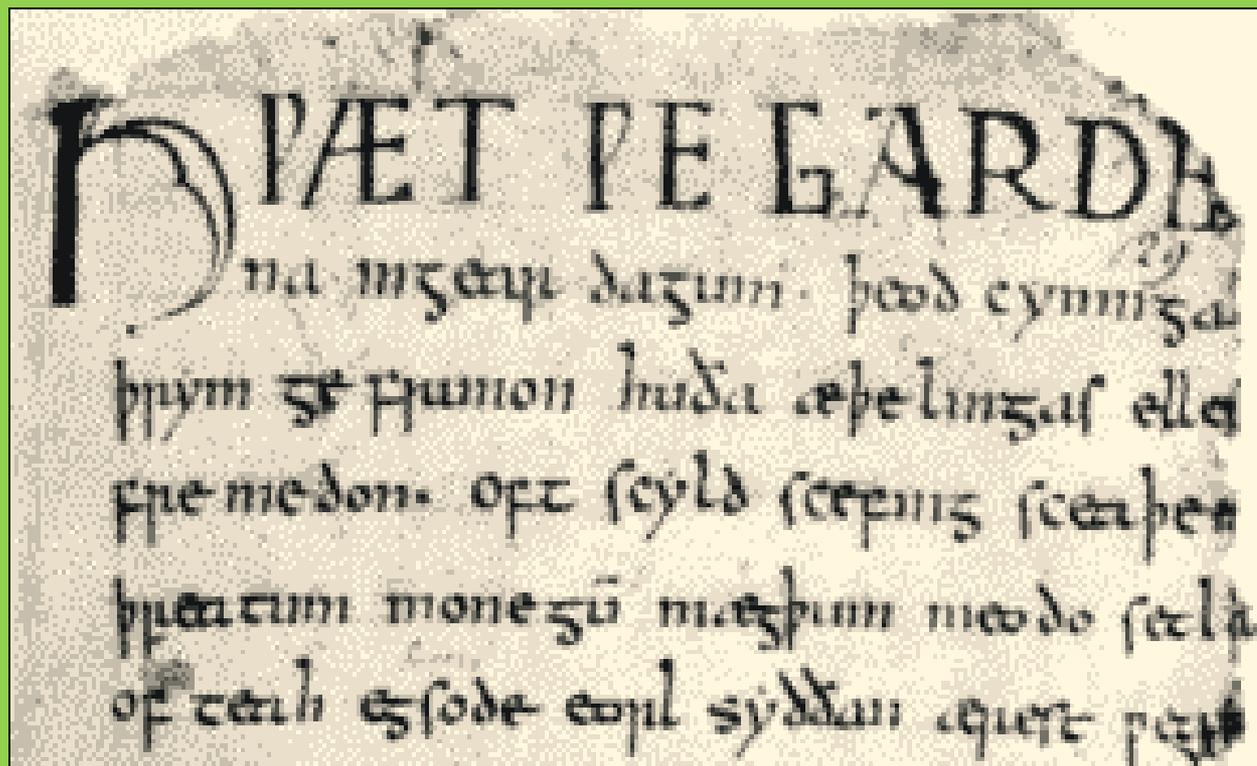
Thereafter English became the dominant language and as a result *13th October symbolizes the survival of English and its development as a world language.*

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH



**CELTIC
LANGUAGE**

OLD ENGLISH (450 - 1100 A.D.)



Beowulf

- poem written in O. E.

be, strong, water

MIDDLE ENGLISH (1100-1500)

And whan I sawgh he wolde never fine
To reden on this cursed book al night,
Al sodeinly thre leves have I plight
Out of his book right as he reddde, and eke
I with my fist so took him on the cheeke
That in oure fir he fil bakward adown.
And up he sterte as dooth a wood leon
And with his fist he smoot me on the heed
That in the floor I lay as I were deed.
And whan he swagh how stille that I lay,
He was agast, and wolde have fled his way,
Till atte laste out of my swough I braide:
"O hastou slain me, false thief?" I saide,
"And for my land thus hastou mordred me?
Er I be deed yit wol I kisse thee."

French – the language of the:

- **Royal Court**
 - **the ruling class**
 - **the business class**
- lower classes – English
- upper classes – French

An example of Middle English by **Chaucer**

EARLY MODERN ENGLISH (1500-1800)

Enter Hamlet.

Cor. Madame, will it please your grace
To leave vs here?

Que. With all my hart. *exit.*

Cor. And here *Ophelia*, reade you on this booke,
And walke aloofe, the King shal be vnseene.

Ham. To be, or not to be, I there's the point,
To Die, to sleepe, is that all? I all:
No, to sleepe, to dreame, I mary there it goes,
For in that dreame of death, when wee awake,
And borne before an euerlasting Iudge,
From whence no passenger euer returnd,
The vndiscovered countrie, at whose sight
The happy smile, and the accursed damn'd.
But for this, the ioyfull hope of this,
Whol'd beare the scornes and flattery of the world,
Scorned by the right rich, the rich curst of the poore?

- new words entered the language
- 1604 – the first dictionary

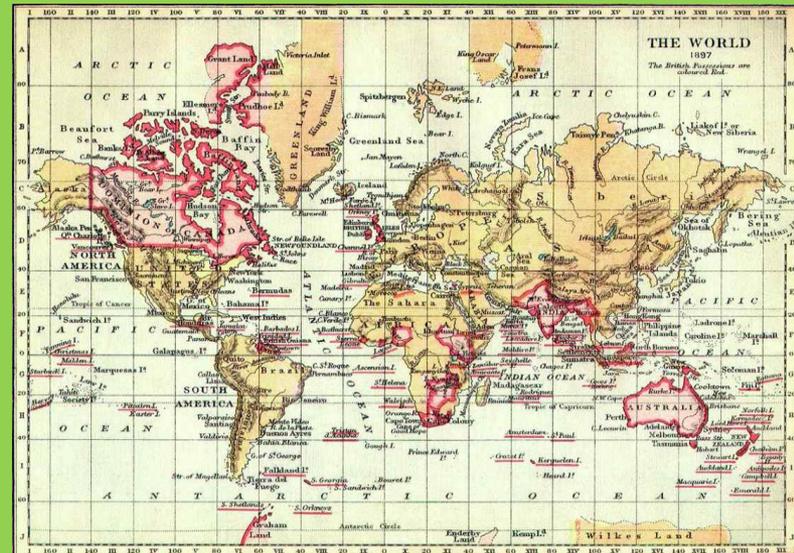
Hamlet's famous
"To be, or not to be" lines,
written in Early Modern
English by Shakespeare.

LATE MODERN ENGLISH (1800 - present)



• more new words

- varieties of English:
 - American English
 - Australian English
 - New Zealand English
 - Canadian English
 - South African English
 - Indian English
 - Caribbean English



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ENGLISH

- The most common letter in English is "e".
- Only two English words in current use end in **-gry**. They are **"angry"** and **"hungry"**.
- The word **"bookkeeper"** is the only unhyphenated English word with 3 consecutive repeated letters. Words such as **"cross-section"** and **"bee-eater"** normally require a hyphen to be readily readable.
- The word ***triskaidekaphobia*** means ***fear of Friday the 13th***. It also means ***superstition about the number thirteen*** in general.
- More English words begin with the letter **"s"** than with any other letter.
- The word **"uncopyrightable"** is the longest English word in normal use that contains no letter more than once.

- A sentence that contains all 26 letters of the alphabet is called a **pangram**.
- The following sentence contains all 26 letters of the alphabet:
“The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog”.
This sentence is often used to test typewriters or keyboards.
- The word "alphabet" comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: **alpha, bēta**.
- The dot over the letter “i” and the letter “j” is called a **superscript dot**.
- The shortest complete sentence in English is the following – **I am**.
- There are only 4 English words in common use ending in **-dous**: **hazardous, horrendous, stupendous, and tremendous**.
- We can find 10 words in the 7-letter word **therein** without rearranging any of its letters: **the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein**.
- The longest English word without a true vowel (a, e, i, o or u) is **rhythm**.

QUIZ

- What English word becomes is opposite when the letters FE are out in front of it?

MALE

- In the word *pretty*, the E is pronounced like a short I. In *women*, the O is pronounced like a short I. In what familiar 4-letter word is U pronounced like a short I?

BUSY

- Name a part of the body that begins with a letter L. Change the L to T, and phonetically, you'll name another part of the body. What is it?

TONGUE - LUNG

- You catch a fish, a cold and your breath. What do you do to a street, your heart and sword?

CROSS

- The name of a well-known American actress contains the 5 vowels (A, E, I, O, U) exactly once, though not in that order. The consonants in her name are B, J, L, R, S and T (not in that order). Who is she?

JULIA ROBERTS