

The history of English.

Any language is always changing with years. That's why today's English is not the same as it was many years ago. The historical connection with other cultures influenced English a lot. Despite all changes, English now is the World language, although the Great Britain is not a big country at all.

Back in the days, the first British people spoke the language which doesn't exist nowadays. In VIII b. c. Indo-European Celts conquered the British territory, and at that time English began its improving. Celts made all locals move away from their mother lands.

The word «brith», which means «painted», shows us how the language changed. After Celts came Romans, that had been ruling those lands for many years, and Celtic was mixed with Latin words and phrases.

Scientists say, that Germanic tribes influenced English the most extent. Current British people are their descends. These tribes changed English very much. All Latin words has gone away, leaving only the names of some villages, lakes and rivers. Ireland, Wales, Scotland still spoke Gaulish and Welsh though.

The development of English.

Missionary added Latin phrases again into English: priest, presbyter, bishop, episcopus, etc.

Norse changed English when Vikings came. Sc- and sk- in the beginnings of words remind us about it: skirt, sky, skin.

The French influence made British aristocracy speak their native language, whereas poor people spoke old English. English vocabulary became wider and the language was divided to classes.

The opening of America.

The opening of America changed English pretty much. Phonetics and grammar were corrected. Great Vowel Shift has happened. «To be going to» has got the meaning of the future tense. So called «weak» and «strong» irregular verbs appeared. The order of words in a sentence was free, whereas now it's not.

Later English shifted languages of colonies and by the XX century English became the World language. It made linguists find ways of its learning.

So today's English is a mix of different languages, that spoke German tribes, French, Romans, Vikings and Icelandic.