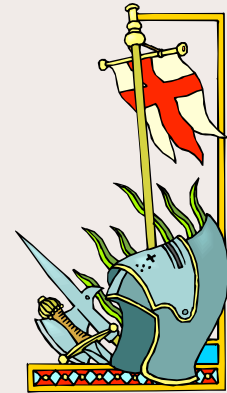




King Alfred showed his pride by using Old English as the language of his government. He had many Latin documents translated into Old English.

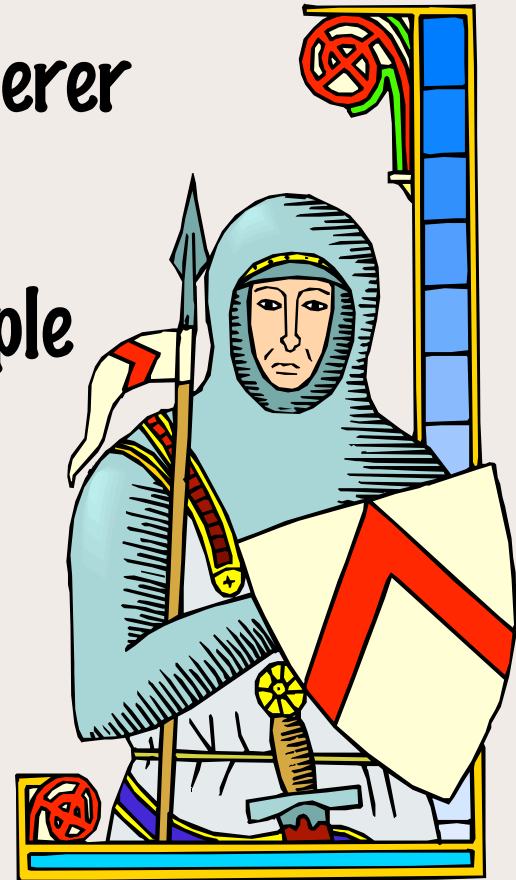


It's all English all the time!

1066 ... the Normans rain on King Alfred's parade.



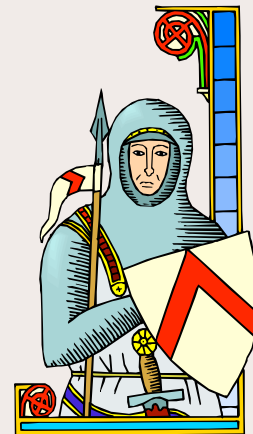
**William the Conqueror
and the Normans
were the next people
to take power
in England.**



They were from the north part of what is now France.



**They were descended from Vikings.
They spoke a dialect of French
that had been influenced by Old Norse
called Norman French.**





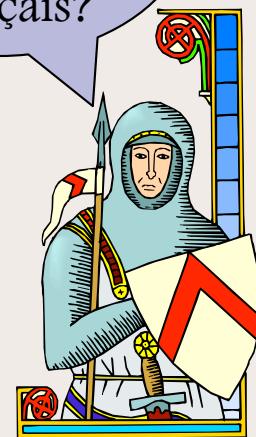
What just happened?



The Normans became very powerful in England.

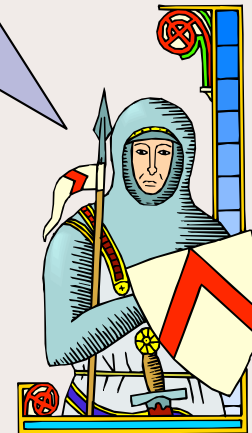
Anybody who wanted to be successful had to speak French.

Je ne comprend pas ...
parlez-vous Français?



**The Normans made French
the language of
law,
the government,
education,
art
and culture.**

court
castle
prison



Language and class after 1066

French was
the language
of the ruling class.

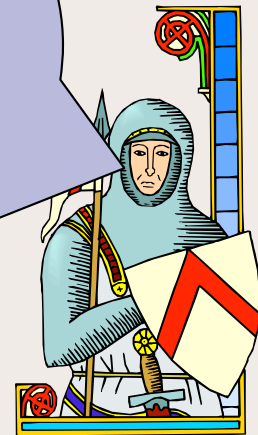
Latin was
the language
of the church.

And English was
the language
of the ordinary people.



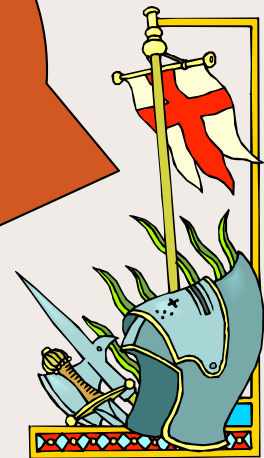
Here is what the Normans were talking about:

1. armour, battle, war, army, navy
2. court, judge, sentence, crime, jury
3. sovereign, prince, duke, count, baron
4. mayor, parliament, council, rule
5. tax, money, rent, wages, lease
6. coat, trousers, blouse, bonnet
7. cow, mutton, veal, pork, beef bacon



Here's what the English were talking about:

1. arrow, axe, bow, shield, spear
2. fish, oar, sail, ship, whale
3. queen, king, earl, lord, lady, knight
4. mayor, parliament, council, rule
5. plow, sow, reap, crop, field, farm
6. hat, shoes, socks, shirt
7. cow, goose, hen, sheep, calf, swine



Meanwhile ... back to the scribes.

Remember we said that the Normans
really complicated things for spellers ...

@#\$%# Normans!!!



They spelled words the French way ...

The rules for spelling in French
are different than
the rules for spelling in English.

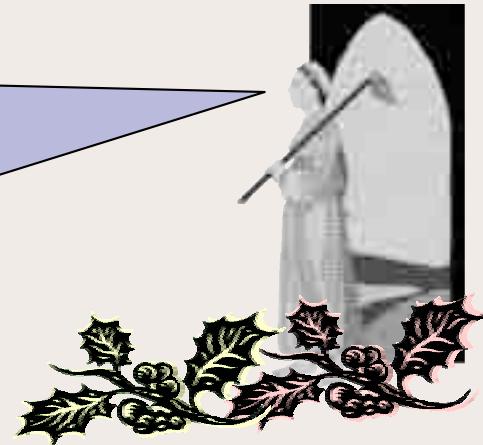
The Normans brought
French words into English
... but they kept spelling them
in the French way.

Zee French way
iz zee best way



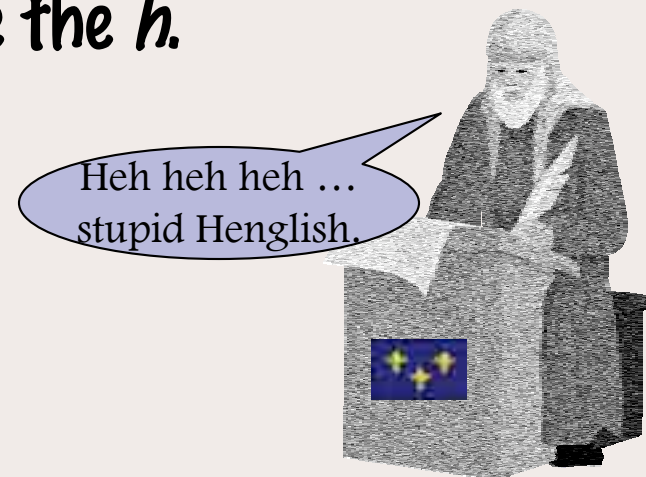
**For example,
French speakers do not sound out an *h*
when it comes at the beginning of a word.**

'onestly,
I've 'ad this 'oe
since I 'ad to dig the
'ole for this 'uge
'olly bush.



The words *honest* and *hour* come from French.
In English,
we might have spelled these words
awnest and *our*
because we do not pronounce the *h*.

But the Norman scribes
kept the French spelling.



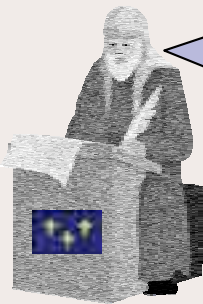
They used French spelling for English words ...

The Norman scribes sometimes used French rules when they wrote English words.

Az I said before ...
zee French way
iz zee best way



For example, in French,
when you write a *g* before an *i* or an *e*,
you have to add a *u*
or the *g* will be pronounced like a *j*.



My people
need
this U.

Get out of here...
surely you jest!

And here is a
gesture to show
how I feel.



But sometimes the Norman scribes would use this rule for English words.



Old English

gæst

tungƷ



Norman scribes

guest

tongue

These Normans don't really act like guests, do they?



They guessed ...

Sometimes Norman scribes had to write English sounds that they did not use in French ... so they guessed how to spell them.



Old English

cwic

cwæn



Norman scribes

quick

queen

Zis Eengleesh
eez crazy



Norman handwriting ... looked a bit like this.

When *i, u, m, n, v, w* were next to each other, they all ran together and it was hard to tell them apart.

The scribes changed some of the *i*'s and *u*'s to *o*'s.



Old English

cuman

sunu

wimman



Norman scribes

come

son

woman

Zere, zat eez eezier to read.



Norman scribes had a lot in common with modern day spellers ...

... they did the best with what they had and filled in the rest with what they already knew. And when neither of those worked - they guessed.



why.can't.i.spell by t.mollins.2005

Patience
my brother ...
or sister?!
(What is this world
coming to?!)



Of course, the scribes had a lot more power than we do ... they could make decisions about spelling.

La de da ...
I put an h 'ere and a u dere..



'ere an h, dere a u
vieux ecriteur as un stylo
la lee la lee oh!

I am the ruler ...
I make the rules!

**We have to follow the rules.
Where did these rules come from?**

**Read on ...
or skip to
page 70 to read about:
the beginning of standard English
or page 80 to read about:
the beginning of standard spelling**

