

1204 ... nothing lasts forever ...

... not even Norman rule.



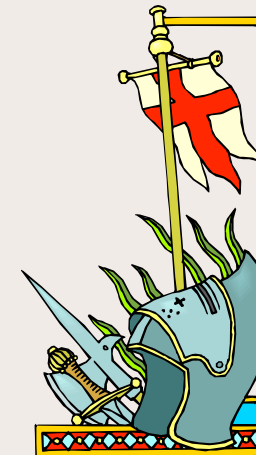
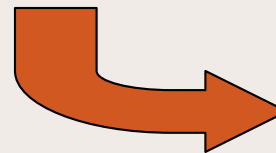
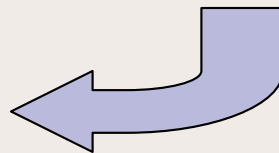
When France conquered Normandy,  
the Norman rulers in England

had to choose a side -

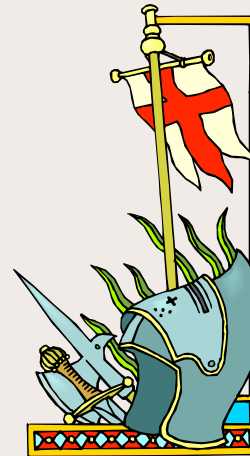
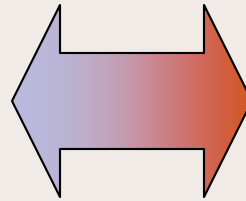
France or England.



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Those who chose England  
still kept in contact with  
France - and still had land  
there.





The French court was in Paris and was the most powerful government in Europe.



# Parisian language and culture #1

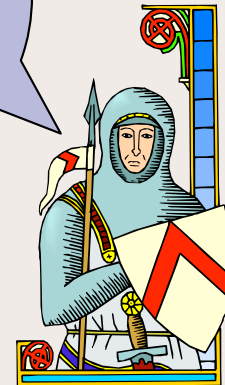


*pass*  
*join*  
*butcher*  
*large*

The French language and culture from Paris was seen as more sophisticated than that of Normandy.

The Norman rulers in England wanted to be seen to be more sophisticated as well ... so they started speaking Parisian French instead of Norman French.

*pass*  
*join*  
*butcher*  
*large*



odour  
perspiration  
depart  
return  
request  
courage



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**We still use  
both French  
words and  
English words.**

smell  
sweat  
go away  
come back  
ask  
guts



**1200 to 1300**

*Well,  
this is no good...*

**The ruling class began to lose power.**



**English landowners began to grow rich  
selling wool to business people in towns.**

*As the sheep  
turns ...*



**The money made them powerful.**

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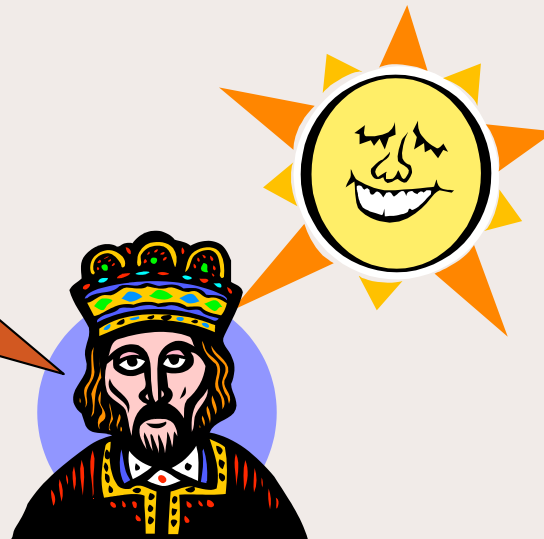
**To make sure that  
they stayed powerful,  
they formed a Parliament.**



## Middle English

As English-speaking people became more powerful in England, English became a more important language.

...grey skies  
are going  
to clear up...





**Scribes started to write in English more.**

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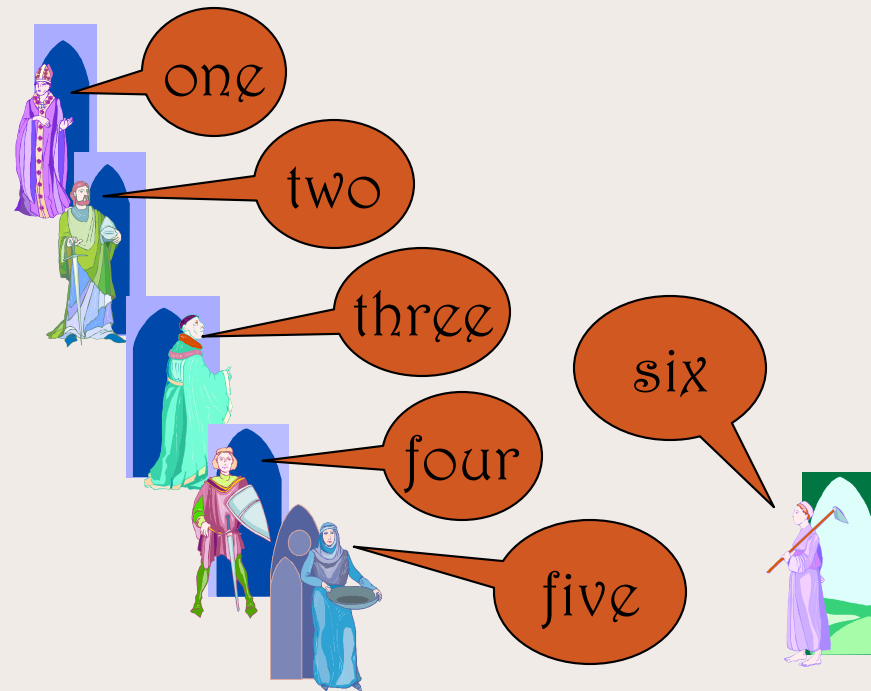
**More literature was  
written in English.**



**Schools started using English.**

**But there were still 6 main dialects of English**

**... and each had its own  
pronunciation,  
grammar,  
vocabulary  
and spelling.**



**1300 to 1600**

**READ ALL ABOUT IT...  
EAST MIDLAND ENGLISH  
BECOMES STANDARD!**



## East Midland English was the dialect spoken by ...

... the rich and powerful people

... the university graduates and professors.

London, the centre of  
government and  
law, was in  
East Midland.



We rule ...  
oh, sorry  
we're English now ...  
WE LEAD!



So were Cambridge and Oxford,  
the only two universities  
in England.



The more East Midland English was used in official documents ... the more common it became.



And the other dialects began to lose status.

My English is good ... yours, not so good ...

The first grammar books, written in the 1300s, were based on East Midland English and this dialect came to be seen as the most correct dialect.



It is just awful  
the way these  
peasants  
butcher the  
King's English.

I couldn't agree  
more ...  
what uneducated  
slobs!

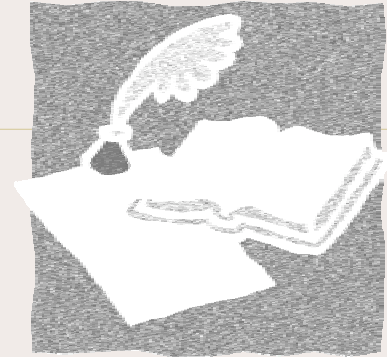


Snobs



## 1400 to 1475

The grammar books were regulating the way people wrote and spoke ... but spelling was still complete anarchy.



All kinds of weird things were happening ...

**anarchy: disorder, especially political or social**

**Latin > from the Greek (see page 9) > *anarkhia* (no rule)**

**(an = no / arkhe= rule)**

... you say should, I say shoud

... but I still spell it should.

For example, *should* and *would* lost the / sound but kept the letter in spelling.

*Coude* never had an / sound, but suddenly was spelled with an / - *could!*

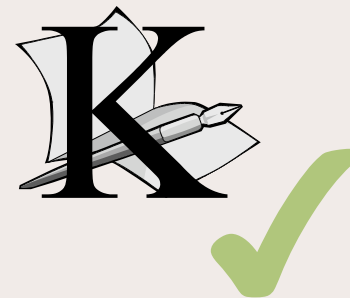
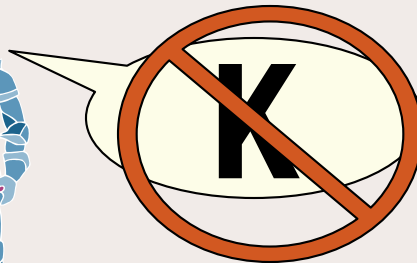
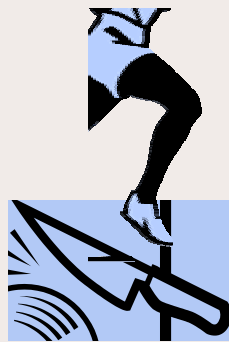
Why?! (sob)





... you say knee, I say nee

Words such as *knee*, *knife* and *knight* lost the *k* sound and *gnaw* lost the *g* sound.



But we still spell these words  
with a *silent k* or a *silent g*.

... you say "good night," I say "Heimlich manoeuvre"

Words such as

*night,*

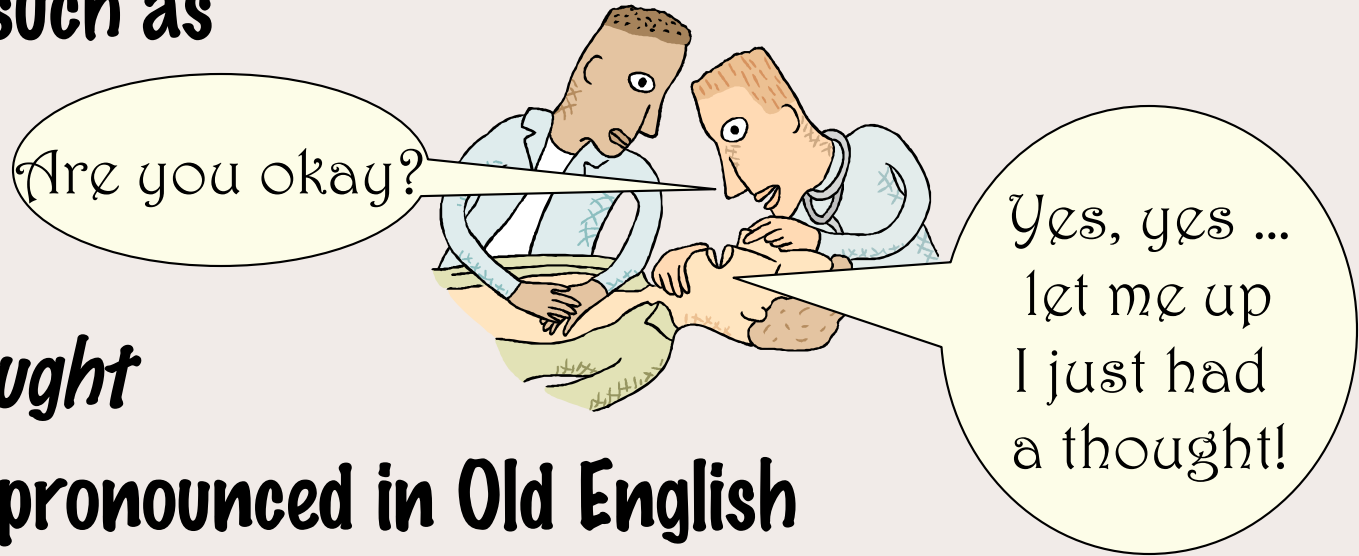
*bright,*

*and thought*

were pronounced in Old English

as though the speaker

were clearing his or her throat...



Are you okay?

Yes, yes ...  
let me up  
I just had  
a thought!

The Norman scribes did not have this sound in their language so they had used *gh* to indicate this sound.



**Old English**

niht



**Norman scribes**

night

**There were too many false alarms so,**

**after a while,**



**people stopped making the choking sound ...**



Whew ... thank goodness for that.

**but the scribes kept writing the gh.**