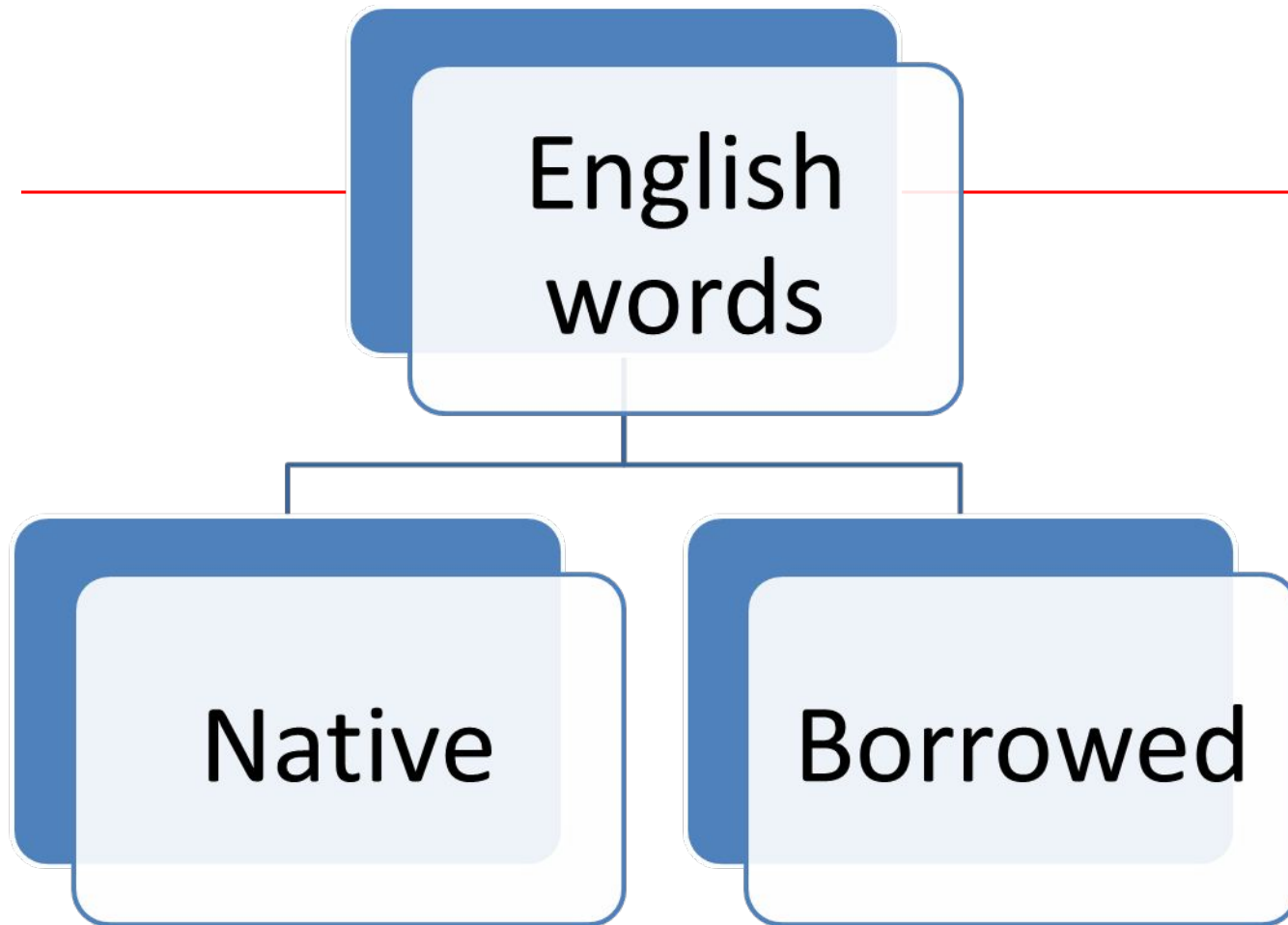


# Etymology of the English Word-stock

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**Etymology** (Gr. *etymon* "truth" + Gr. *logos* "learning") is a branch of linguistics that studies the origin and history of words tracing them to their earliest determinable source.

# The Origins of English Words



# Definitions

**A native word** is a word which belongs to the original English word stock, as known from the earliest available manuscripts of the Old English period.

**A borrowed word** (a borrowing, or a loan word) is a word taken over from another language and modified in phonemic shape, spelling, paradigm or meaning according to the standards of the English language.

# Words of Native Origin

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- Words of the Indo-European origin (IE)
- Words of common Germanic origin
- English words proper

# Words of the Indo-European origin

- **Family relations:** *father, mother, brother, son, daughter*
- **Parts of the human body:** *foot, nose, lip, heart, tooth*
- **Animals and plants:** *cow, swine, goose, tree, birch, corn*
- **The most important objects and phenomena of nature:** *sun, moon, star, wind, water, wood, hill, stone*
- **Adjectives:** *hard, quick, slow, red, white, new*
- **Numerals from 1 to 100:** *one, two, twenty, eighty*
- **Pronouns** – personal, except *they* (Sc.): *I, you, he*;  
demonstrative : *that*; interrogative: *who*
- **Some of the most frequent verbs:** *bear, do, be, sit, stand*

# Words of common Germanic origin

- **Nouns denoting parts of the human body:** *head, arm, finger*
- **~~Periods of time:~~** ~~*summer, winter, time, week*~~
- **Natural phenomena:** *storm, rain, flood, ice, ground, sea, earth*
- **Artefacts and materials:** *bridge, house, shop, room, coal, iron, lead, cloth*
- **Animals, plants and birds:** *sheep, horse, fox, crow, oak, grass*
- **Adjectives denoting colours, size and other properties:** *broad, dead, deaf, deep, grey, blue*
- **Verbs:** *see, hear, speak, tell, say, make, give*

# Historical causes of borrowing

- The Roman invasion (1<sup>st</sup> c. B.C.),
- The introduction of Christianity (7<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.),
- The Danish conquests (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.),
- The Norman conquest (1066 A.D.),
- The Renaissance period (14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.),
- Direct linguistic contacts and political, economical and cultural relationship with other nations.

# The Etymology of Borrowed Words

- Celtic: 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> A. D.
- Latin:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> layer: 1<sup>st</sup> c. B. C.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> layer: 7<sup>th</sup> c. A. D. (the introduction of Christianity)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> layer: 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> c. (the Renaissance period)
- Scandinavian: 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> c. A. D.
- French:
  - Norman borrowings: 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> A. D.
  - Parisian borrowings: the Renaissance period
- Greek: the Renaissance period
- Italian: the Renaissance period and later
- Spanish: the Renaissance period and later
- Russian: the Renaissance period and later
- German, Indian and other languages



# Celtic borrowings

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- **Place names:** *Avon, Exe, Esk, Usk, Ux* (Celtic "river", "water"); London (*Llyn* "river" + *dun* "a fortified hill") - "a fortress on the hill over the river"
- *cradle, cross, iron, flannel, tweed, lake* (C. *loch*)

# The earliest Latin borrowings (1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D.)

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- **words denoting things connected with war, trade, building and domestic life:**  
*pound, inch, cup, kitchen, pepper, butter, cheese, milk, wine, cherry*

## Latin words borrowed into English through the Christianization of England (7<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.)

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- **persons, objects and ideas associated with church and religious rituals:** *priest, bishop, monk, nun, candle, temple, angel*
- **words connected with learning:** *grammar, school, scholar, decline, master, magister*

## Latin borrowings of the Renaissance period (14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.)

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- **abstract words:** *major, minor, filial, moderate, intelligent, permanent, to elect, to create.*

## Scandinavian borrowings (8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.)

- **Verbs:** *call, take, cast, die, want*
- **Nouns:** *law, egg, husband* (Sc. *hūs* + *bōndi* "inhabitant of the house"), *window* (Sc. *vindauga* "the eye of the wind")
- **Adjectives:** *ill, loose, low, weak*
- **Pronouns and pronominal forms:** *they, their, them, same, both, though.*

## Scandinavian borrowings (place names)

- *Derby, Tlemsby* (-by: Sc. "village, town");

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- *Zinthorp, Altharp* (-thorp: Sc. "village");
- *Eastoft, Nortoft* (-toft: Sc. "a plot of land covered with grass");
- *Troutbeck* (-beck: Sc. "brook");
- *Inverness* (-ness: Sc. "cape");
- *Applethwait, Crossthwait* (-thwait: Sc. "forest glade")

## Norman borrowings (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.)

- **Government and administration:** *state, country, government, parliament, prince, baron*
- **Legal terms:** *court, judge, justice, crime, prison, jury*

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- **Religious terms:** *saint, sermon (проповедь), prayer, parish (приход), chapel*
- **Military terms:** *army, war, soldier, officer, battle, enemy*
- **Educational terms:** *pupil, lesson, library, science, pen, pencil*
- **Artistic and literary terms:** *image, character, figure, volume, design*
- **Terms of everyday life:** *chair, table, plate, saucer, dinner, supper, breakfast*

# Parisian borrowings: the Renaissance period and later

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- *regime, routine, police, machine, ballet, matinée, scene, technique, bourgeois, etc.*



# The Renaissance period borrowings (14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> c. A.D.)

- **Italian:** *piano, violin, opera, alarm, colonel*
- **Spanish:** *potato, tomato, cargo, banana, cocoa.*
- **Greek:** direct (e.g. *atom, cycle, ethics, esthete*), or through Latin (*datum, status, phenomenon, phenomenon, philosophy, method, music*).

# Other borrowings

- **Japanese:** *karate, judo, hara-kiri, kimono, tycoon;*
- **Arabic:** *algebra, algorithm, fakir, giraffe, sultan*
- **Turkish:** *yogurt, kiosk, tulip*
- **Persian:** *caravan, shawl, bazaar, sherbet*
- **Eskimo:** *kayak, igloo, anorak*
- **Amerindian languages:** *toboggan, wigwam, opossum*
- **Russian:** *bistro, tsar, balalaika, tundra, sputnik*

# **Classification of borrowings according to the aspect which is borrowed**

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- Borrowings proper
- Translation borrowings (translation loans)
- Semantic borrowings

# Classification of borrowings according to the aspect which is borrowed

- **Translation borrowings (translation loans)** are words and expressions formed from the material already existing in the English language but according to patterns taken from another language, by way of literal morpheme-for-morpheme translation.  
E. g. *masterpiece* < Germ. *Meisterstück*; *Wonder child* < Germ. *Wunderkind*; *wall newspaper* < Rus. *стенная газета*; *collective farm* < Rus. *колхоз*.

# Classification of borrowings according to the aspect which is borrowed

- **Semantic borrowing** is understood as the development in an English word of a new meaning under the influence of a related word in another language.

E. g. Eng. *pioneer* 'explorer', 'one who is among the first in new fields of activity':: Rus. *пионер* 'a member of the Young Pioneers' Organization'.

*reaction, deviation, bureau*

# International words

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“Words of identical origin that occur in several languages as a result of simultaneous or successive borrowings from one ultimate source”  
(I. A. Arnold, p. 260).

# International words

- Words denoting science and technological advances: *sputnik, television, antenna, bionics, gene, cybernetics*
- Political terms: *politics, democracy, communism, revolution*
- Fruits and foodstuffs imported from exotic countries: *coffee, chocolate, grapefruit*
- Names of sciences: *philosophy, mathematics, physics, chemistry*
- Terms of art: *music, theatre, drama, tragedy*
- The sports terms: *football, baseball, cricket, golf.*