

English

English is a West Germanic language related to Dutch, Frisian and German with a significant amount of vocabulary from French, Latin, Greek and many other languages.

Approximately 341 million people speak English as a native language and a further 267 million speak it as a second language in over 104 countries including the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, American Samoa, Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Cook Islands and Denmark.

A Brief History of English

Old English

English evolved from the Germanic languages brought to Britain by the Angles, Saxons, Jutes and other Germanic tribes from about the 5th Century AD. These languages are known collectively as Anglo-Saxon or Old English, and began to appear in writing during the 5th century AD.

English acquired vocabulary from Old Norse after Norsemen starting settling in parts of Britain, particularly in the north and east, from the 9th century. To this day varieties of English spoken in northern England contain more words of Norse origin than other varieties of English. They are also said to retain some aspects of pronunciation from Old Norse.

Middle English

The Norman invasion of 1066 brought with it a deluge of Norman and Latin vocabulary, and for the next three centuries English became a mainly oral language spoken by ordinary people, while the nobility spoke Norman, which became Anglo-Norman, and the clergy spoke Latin.

When English literature began to reappear in the 13th century the language had lost the inflectional system of Old English, and the spelling had changed under Norman influence. For example, the Old English letters þ (thorn) and ð (eth) were replaced by “th”. This form of English is known as Middle English.

Modern English

By about the 15th century Middle English had evolved into Early Modern English, and continued to absorb numerous words from other languages, especially from Latin and Greek. Printing was introduced to Britain by William Caxton in around 1469, and as a result English became increasingly standardised. The first English dictionary, Robert Cawdrey's *Table Alphabeticall*, was published in 1604.

During the medieval and early modern periods English spread from England to Wales, Scotland and other parts of the British Isles, and also to Ireland. From the 17th century English was exported to other parts of the world via trade and colonization, and it developed into new varieties wherever it went. English-based pidgins and creoles also developed in many places, such as on islands in the Caribbean and Pacific, and in parts of Africa.

Modern English alphabet

A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h I i J j K k L l M m

a bee cee dee e ef gee (h)aitch i jay kay el em
[eɪ] [bi:] [si:] [di:] [i:] [ef] [dʒi:] [(h)entʃ] [aɪ] [dʒeɪ] [keɪ] [el] [em]

N n O o P p Q q R r S s T t U u V v W w X x Y y Z z

en o pee cue ar ess tee u vee double-u ex wy(e) zed/zee
[en] [ou] [pi:] [kju:] [ɑ:/ɑr] [es] [ti:] [ju:] [vi:] [ˈdʌbəlju:] [eks] [waɪ] [zed/zi:]

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/english.htm>

Numbers

1	one	17	seventeen
2	two	18	eighteen
3	three	19	nineteen
4	four	20	twenty (20)
5	five	30	thirty (30)
6	six	40	forty (40)
7	seven	50	fifty (50)
8	eight	60	sixty (60)
9	nine	70	seventy (70)
10	ten	80	eighty (80)
11	eleven	90	ninety (90)
12	twelve	0	zero (0)
13	thirteen	100	hundred (100)
14	fourteen	1000	thousand (1,000)
15	fifteen	1,000,000	million
16	sixteen	1,000,000,000	billion

<http://www.englishnumber.com/english-numbers/two-figure-numbers/english-number-2-figures.html>

Ordinal Numbers

1.	first	1st	11.	eleventh	11th
2.	second	2nd	12.	twelfth	12th
3.	third	3rd	13.	thirteenth	13th
4.	fourth	4th	14.	fourteenth	14th
5.	fifth	5th	15.	fifteenth	15th
6.	sixth	6th	16.	sixteenth	16th
7.	seventh	7th	17.	seventeenth	17th
8.	eighth	8th	18.	eighteenth	18th
9.	ninth	9th	19.	nineteenth	19th
10.	tenth	10th	20.	twentieth	20th

<http://www.englishnumber.com/ordinal-numbers/how-to-pronounce-ordinal-numbers-in-english.html>

Telephone Numbers

In the U.S., phone numbers have seven digits, plus an area code. See the example below. The number zero ("0") is usually pronounced "oh." Some people may pronounce "zero." We say the area code as single digits: area code nine-one-seven.

a typical phone number in the U.S.

(917) 642-8073

area code

Zero "0" is pronounced either "oh" or "zero."
"Oh" is more common.

<http://www.englishnumber.com/phone-numbers/english-phone-numbers.html>

How to Pronounce Fractions

Here is an example of mixed fractions. If the numerator is more than one, the denominator is plural, adding s as a suffix.

an example of mixed fractions

whole number 3 $\frac{5}{8}$
three numerator five
denominator eighths

Pronunciation:

three and five eighths

<http://www.englishnumber.com/fractions/how-to-pronounce-fractions-in-english.html>

1/2	Half
1/3	One thirds
1/4	Quarter
1/5	One fifths

Decimals and Percentage

We list some sentences containing decimals and percentage. The number zero ("0") in decimals is usually pronounced as "zero." We pronounce 0.1 as zero-point-one, or point-one without zero in a casual or informal manner.

an example of decimals

0.023
zero point zero two three
point zero two three

<http://www.englishnumber.com/decimals/how-to-pronounce-decimals-in-English.html>

Spell on the Phone in English: ICAO/ITU/NATO Spelling Alphabet

The following table contains all letters spelled according to the international ICAO/ITU/NATO spelling alphabet:

Letters (ICAO/ITU/NATO Spelling Alphabet)	
A	Alfa
B	Bravo
C	Charlie
D	Delta
E	Echo
F	Foxtrot
G	Golf
H	Hotel
I	India
J	Juliett
K	Kilo
L	Lima
M	Mike

Letters (ICAO/ITU/NATO Spelling Alphabet)	
N	November
O	Oscar
P	Papa
Q	Quebec
R	Romeo
S	Sierra
T	Tango
U	Uniform
V	Victor
W	Whiskey
X	X-ray
Y	Yankee
Z	Zulu

The following table contains all digits spelled according to the international ICAO/ITU/NATO spelling alphabet:

(Note: The second spelling is used primarily by the ITU and the IMO²)

Digits (ICAO/ITU/NATO Spelling Alphabet)	
0	Zero / Nadazero
1	One / Unaone
2	Two / Bissotwo
3	Three / Terrathree
4	Four / Kartefour

Digits (ICAO/ITU/NATO Spelling Alphabet)	
5	Five / Pantafive
6	Six / Soxisix
7	Seven / Setteseven
8	Eight / Oktoeight
9	Nine / Novenine

The following table contains punctuation marks, signs and special characters with their names:

Punctuation Marks, Signs and Special Characters	
	Space
.	Dot / Period / Full Stop
,	Comma
;	Semicolon
:	Colon
?	Question Mark
!	Exclamation Mark
@	At Sign
&	Ampersand
"	Double Quotation Mark
'	Apostrophe / Single Quotation Mark / Prime
-	Dash / Minus Sign
/	Forward Slash
\	Backslash
(Left Round Bracket / Parenthesis
)	Right Round Bracket / Parenthesis
[Left Square Bracket
]	Right Square Bracket

Punctuation Marks, Signs and Special Characters	
{	Left Curly Bracket
}	Right Curly Bracket
<	Left Angle Bracket / Less-Than Sign
>	Right Angle Bracket / Greater-Than Sign
	Vertical Bar / Pipe
°	Degree Symbol
*	Asterisk / Star
+	Plus Sign
=	Equal Sign
#	Number Sign / Pound Sign / Hash
§	Section Sign
\$	Dollar Sign
€	Euro Sign
~	Tilde
_	Underscore
%	Percent Sign
^	Caret

<http://www.spelltool.com/en/index.php>