

A brief chronology of English

55 BC Roman invasion of Britain by Julius Caesar. Local inhabitants speak Celtic

AD 43 Roman invasion and occupation. Beginning of Roman rule of Britain.

436 Roman withdrawal from Britain complete.

449 Settlement of Britain by Germanic invaders begins

450-480 Earliest known Old English inscriptions.

1066 William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, invades and conquers England.

c1150 Earliest surviving manuscripts in Middle English.

1348 English replaces Latin as the language of instruction in most schools.

'**1362** English replaces French as the language of law. English is used in Parliament for the first time.'

c1388 Chaucer starts writing *The Canterbury Tales*.

c1400 The Great Vowel Shift begins.

1476 William Caxton establishes the first English printing press.

1564 Shakespeare is born. **1604** *Table Alphabeticall*, the first English dictionary, is published.

1607 The first permanent English settlement in the New World (Jamestown) is established.

1616 Shakespeare dies.

1623 Shakespeare's First Folio is published

1702 The first daily English-language newspaper, *The Daily Courant*, is published in London.

1755 Samuel Johnson publishes his English dictionary.

1776 Thomas Jefferson writes the American Declaration of Independence.

1782 Britain abandons its colonies in what is later to become the USA.

1828 Webster publishes his American English dictionary.

1922 The British Broadcasting Corporation is founded.

1928 The *Oxford English Dictionary* is published.

c.1980 The Internet begins operation.

source: englishclub.com