

# Development of the English Language

Old English	Middle English	Modern English

## Old English

Rate the difficulty of Old English:

Easy

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Extremely Difficult

## Middle English

### The Miller's Tale Prologue

Heere folwen the words bitwene the Hoost and the Millere.

Whan that the Knyght had thus his tale ytoold,  
In al the route ne was ther yong ne oold  
That he ne seyde it was a noble storie,  
And worthy for to drawen to memorie;

### Task:

1. How many words do you recognise? Write them down.
2. Have you any idea what this may mean? Have a go at translating it!

Rate the difficulty of Middle English:

Easy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Extremely Difficult
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## Modern English

Rate the difficulty of Early Modern English:

Easy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Extremely Difficult
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Late Modern English Example:

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Rate the difficulty of Late Modern English:

Easy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Extremely Difficult
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Translate these Shakespearean phrases:

'Thou art a villain.'

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'I pray thee good Mercutio, let's retire.'

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'Deny thy father and refuse thy name.'

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'There lies more peril in thine eye.'

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