



Unit 2 Lesson 5 Old to Modern English

Crib Sheet

Slide 1: Introduce the objective to recap the history of English covered in this unit. To look at the emergence of Early modern English and to see if we can date words.

Slide 2: Old English, Middle English or Early Modern English? Pupils see if they can guess which language the three texts are from. Discuss the changes, similarities and differences they see on the slide – letters, spellings, cognates, grammar.

Slide 3: Provides the answers. Pupils' own responses for the similarities and differences.

Slide 4: Ask pupils what they know about Old English. Have the pupils remembered and understood key facts about Anglo-Saxon or Old English? They should fill in the gaps.

Slide 5: Ask pupils what they know about Middle English. Have the pupils remembered and understood key facts about Middle English from last week? Here again, they should fill in the gaps.

Slides 6 and 7 provide information for pupils to read about what led to the emergency of Early Modern English: The Great Vowel Shift, the Renaissance movement, increased global trade and movement, printing in England and the creation of the first English dictionary.

Slide 8: Click on the video clip showing how Early Modern English would have sounded. The presenter David Crystal has written many excellent books on linguistics, see the WoLLoW website for some examples. Only play the first 5 minutes of the clip.

Slide 9: Pupils have a go at reading the Shakespeare sonnet in OP (Early Modern English original pronunciation). Do they find it easier to understand? Why? Why not? Do they like the sounds?

Slides 10: Pupils complete the gap fill recap exercise.

Slide 11: Ask pupils to discuss in pairs what they think will happen to the English language next? What effects will increased globalisation and use of technology have on our language?

Slides 12, 13 and 14: Now pupils have the knowledge to guess where words come from and when they were first used in English. Look at the examples of dating words from Ecclesiastes and Orwell. Look at the OE words (short, natural, basic words) Norman words (chance) appearing after 1066, longer words of the 1600s. Pupils try to date the words of Hamlet – this is extremely hard and pupils will not be accurate, but the exercise gets them thinking about dating words and the characteristics of words and it's good fun.