

CONTENTS

CHAPTER

PREFACE	vii
I WHAT IS LANGUAGE?	i
II THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE AND THE INVENTION OF WRITING	23
III THE FLUX OF LANGUAGE	47
IV LANGUAGE FAMILIES	67
V THE INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES	76
VI THE GERMANIC LANGUAGES	100
VII OLD ENGLISH	118
VIII THE VIKINGS IN ENGLAND	142
IX THE NORMAN CONQUEST	150
X MIDDLE ENGLISH	167
XI EARLY MODERN ENGLISH	188
XII ENGLISH IN THE SCIENTIFIC AGE	207
XIII ENGLISH AS A WORLD LANGUAGE	227
XIV CHANGES IN MEANING	242
XV ENGLISH TODAY AND TOMORROW	260
GLOSSARY	276
SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING	291