

1 Modelling English	2	
PART I THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH		4
2 The origins of English	6	
3 Old English	8	
• Early borrowings 8 • Runes 9 • The Old English corpus 10 • Literary texts 12 • The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle 14 • Spelling 16 • Sounds 18 • Grammar 20 • Vocabulary 22 • Late borrowings 24 • Dialects 28		
4 Middle English	30	
• French and English 30 • The transition from Old English 32 • The Middle English corpus 34 • Literary texts 36 • Chaucer 38 • Spelling 40 • Sounds 42 • Grammar 44 • Vocabulary 46 • Latin borrowings 48 • Dialects 50 • Middle Scots 52 • The origins of Standard English 54		
5 Early Modern English	56	
• Caxton 56 • Transitional texts 58 • Renaissance English 60 • The inkhorn controversy 61 • Shakespeare 62 • The King James Bible 64 • Spelling and regularization 66 • Punctuation 68 • Sounds 69 • Grammar 70 • Vocabulary 72 • The Academy debate 73 • Johnson 74		
6 Modern English	76	
• Transition 76 • Grammatical trends 77 • Prescriptivism 78 • American English 80 • Breaking the rules 84 • Variety awareness 86 • Scientific language 87 • Literary voices 88 • Dickens 89 • Recent trends 90		
7 World English	92	
• The New World 92 • American dialects 93 • Canada 95 • Black English Vernacular 96 • Australia 98 • New Zealand 99 • South Africa 100 • South Asia 101 • West Africa 102 • East Africa 103 • South-East Asia and the South Pacific 104 • A world language 106 • Numbers of speakers 108 • Standard English 110 • The future of English 112 • English threatened and as threat 114		
PART II ENGLISH VOCABULARY		116
8 The nature of the lexicon	118	
• Lexemes 118 • The size of the English lexicon 119 • Abbreviations 120 • Proper names 122 • The size of a person's lexicon 123		
9 The sources of the lexicon	124	
• Native vocabulary 124 • Foreign borrowings 126 • Word-formation 128 • Unusual structures 130 • Lexical creation 132 • Literary neologism 134		
10 Etymology	136	
• Lexical history 136 • Semantic change 138 • Folk etymology 139 • Place names 140 • Surnames 148 • First names 150 • Nicknames 152 • Object names 154 • Eponyms 155		
11 The structure of the lexicon	156	
• Semantic structure 156 • Semantic fields 157 • Dictionary and thesaurus 158 • Collocations 160 • Lexical predictability 162 • Idioms 163 • Synonyms 164 • Antonyms 165 • Hyponyms 166 • Incompatibility 167 • Other sense relations 168		
12 Lexical dimensions	170	
• Loaded vocabulary 170 • Taboo 172 • Swearing 173 • Jargon 174 • Doublespeak 176 • Political correctness 177 • Catch phrases 178 • Vogue words 179 • Slogans 180 • Graffiti 181 • Slang 182 • Quotations 184 • Proverbs 184 • Archaisms 185 • Clichés 186 • Last words 187		
PART III ENGLISH GRAMMAR		188
13 Grammatical mythology	190	
• The nature of grammar 190 • Knowing vs knowing about 191 • Traditional grammar 192 • Prescriptive grammar 194 • The 20th-century legacy 196 • The main branches of grammar 197		
14 The structure of words	198	
• Morphology 198 • Suffixation 198 • Adjectives 199 • Nouns 200 • The apostrophe 203 • Pronouns 203 • Verbs 204		
15 Word classes	206	
• Parts of speech 206 • Traditional definitions 206 • New classes 207 • Nouns 208 • Pronouns 210 • Adjectives 211 • Adverbs 211 • Verbs 212 • Prepositions 213 • Conjunctions 213 • Interjections 213		
16 The structure of sentences	214	
• Spoken and written syntax 214 • Types of sentence 216 • Sentence structure 217 • Sentence functions 218 • Clause elements and types 220 • Phrases 222 • Noun phrases 222 • Verb phrases 224 • Multiple sentences 226 • Abbreviation 228 • Disjuncts and comment clauses 229 • Reporting speech 230 • Sentence information 231 • Beyond the sentence 232		

PART IV SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH	234	
17 The sound system	236	394
• Phonetics and phonology 236 • Vocal organs 236		
• Vowels 237 • Consonants 242 • Syllables 246		
• Connected speech 247 • Prosody 248		
• Sound symbolism 250 • Pronunciation in practice 254		
18 The writing system	256	
• Graphetics and graphology 257 • Typography 257		
• The alphabet 258 • Properties of letters 265		
• Letter frequency 265 • Letter distribution 266		
• Letter symbolism 268 • Analysing handwriting 269		
• Graphetic variety 270 • Spelling 272		
• Sources of irregularity 274 • Spelling reform 276		
• Punctuation 278 • The development of the writing system 280		
PART V USING ENGLISH	284	
19 Varieties of discourse	286	424
• Structure vs use 286 • Pragmatic issues 286		
• The nature of discourse 287 • Microlinguistic studies 288		
• Texts and varieties 290 • Speech vs writing 291		
• Mixed medium 292 • Monologue and dialogue 294		
20 Regional variation	298	436
• Accent and dialect 298 • International and intranational 299		
• A day in the life of the language 300		
• American and British English 306 • American dialects 312		
• British dialects 318 • Scotland 328 • Wales 334		
• Ireland 336 • Canada 340 • Caribbean 344		
• Pidgins and creoles 346 • Australia 350		
• New Zealand 354 • South Africa 356 • New Englishes 358		
21 Social variation	364	446
• Sociolinguistic perspective 364 • Received Pronunciation 365		
• Prescriptive attitudes 366 • Gender 368 • Occupation 370		
• Religion 371 • Science 372 • Law 374 • Plain English 377		
• Politics 378 • News media 380 • Journalism 382		
• Broadcasting 384 • Weather forecasting 385		
• Sports commentary 386 • Advertising 388		
• Restricted varieties 390 • New fashions 392		
• New technologies 393		
22 Personal variation		457
• Individual differences 394 • Deviance 395		
• Word games 396 • Rule-breaking varieties 400		
• The edges of language 403 • Jokes and puns 404		
• Comic alphabets 407 • Variety humour 410		
• Literary freedom 412 • Phonetics and phonology 414		
• Graphetics and graphology 416 • Grammar and lexicon 418		
• Discourse and variety 420 • Styliometry 423		
23 Electronic variation		424
• Netspeak and its properties 424 • Lexical distinctiveness 429		
• Graphic distinctiveness 430 • Graphological distinctiveness 431		
• Grammatical distinctiveness 432 • Discourse distinctiveness 433		
PART VI LEARNING ABOUT ENGLISH		434
24 Learning English as a mother tongue		436
• Child language acquisition 436 • Literacy 437		
• Grammatical development 438		
• Early words and sounds 440 • Reading and writing 442		
• Insufficient language 444 • Language disability 444		
25 New ways of studying English		446
• Technological revolution 446 • Corpus studies 448		
• National and international corpora 450 • Dictionaries 452		
• Innovations 454 • Sources and resources 456		
APPENDICES		457
I Glossary		458
II Special symbols and abbreviations		471
III References		472
IV Further reading		477
V Index of linguistic items		480
VI Index of authors and personalities		482
VII Index of topics		485
Acknowledgements		496