

# 17 The earliest 'English'

The Romans started to leave Britain in the fifth century AD, and tribes of Angles, Saxons, and Jutes invaded. The Germanic languages they spoke came to be known as **Anglo-Saxon** or **Old English**. The word 'England' comes from 'land of the Angles'. Old English words such as 'boat', 'drink', 'drive', and 'house' are still used today.

Next Britain was invaded by Vikings from Norway and Denmark. The Vikings spoke **Old Norse** and many words found their way into English. Old Norse words include 'cast', 'die', 'fellow', 'skin', 'sky', and 'wrong'.



## GETTING STARTED

Use your dictionary to work out the origin of the following words. Write 'Old English' or 'Old Norse'.

	MODERN ENGLISH	WORD	ORIGIN
1.	knight	<i>cniht</i>	
2.	sheer	<i>scir</i>	
3.	again	<i>ongean</i>	
4.	bloated	<i>blautr</i>	
5.	awkward	<i>ofugr</i>	
6.	dappled	<i>depill</i>	



## MOVING ON

Use your dictionary to answer the following questions.

- The Old English word for Monday is *monadaeg* which means day of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- After which Norse god is Tuesday (Old English *Tiwesdaeg*) named? \_\_\_\_\_
- After which Norse god is Wednesday named? \_\_\_\_\_
- After which Norse god is Thursday named? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the Old English word for Friday? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the Old English word for Saturday? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does the Old English word for Sunday (*sunnandaeg*) mean? \_\_\_\_\_
- Explain the origins of the words 'berserk' and 'weird'. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many did you get right?

5 = NOVICE

8 = EXPERT

10 = MAESTRO

17 You can use your Oxford School Dictionary and your Oxford Student's Dictionary for these activities