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Abstract: *Modern English, the version of the English language spoken from the late 15th century to the present day, has evolved from its earlier forms due to a combination of historical events, cultural changes, and linguistic developments. It is characterized by its widespread use, rich vocabulary, flexible grammar, and complexities in pronunciation and spelling. This article explores the distinctive features of Modern English that learners encounter, with a focus on global usage, grammar simplifications, lexical diversity, pronunciation challenges, and the impact of technological and cultural influences. The analysis provides insight into the linguistic innovations that define Modern English and shape the experiences of both native and non-native speakers.*

Keywords: *Modern English, global language, grammar simplifications, vocabulary, pronunciation, language change, linguistic evolution, technology, English as a lingua franca.*

Modern English, which is spoken today by millions around the world, is the result of centuries of linguistic evolution. It has undergone significant changes in terms of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, particularly after the Great Vowel Shift (14th to 18th centuries), the Industrial Revolution, and the rise of global communication in the 20th century. Today, English is not only a native language for many but also the lingua franca of global communication. For learners, understanding the unique characteristics of Modern English—its simplicity in grammar, rich and varied vocabulary, and challenges in pronunciation and spelling—provides a clearer path to mastering it. Simplicity in Grammar and Structure. Modern English grammar has been simplified compared to its earlier forms, especially Middle English and Old English. For learners, this makes English grammar relatively easier than that of other languages with complex systems. Key characteristics include: Lack of grammatical gender: Unlike many European languages such as French, Spanish, or German, English nouns do not have gender (e.g., "table" is neither masculine nor feminine). No case system for nouns: English uses word order to indicate the subject, object, and indirect object of a sentence, unlike languages such as Latin or Russian, which rely on noun cases (nominative, accusative, etc.). Simplified verb conjugations: English verbs change minimally depending on the subject. For example, the verb "to walk" has only slight changes in different tenses: "I walk," "she walks," "I walked," "I will walk." Lexical Diversity and Borrowings. One of the most



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defining features of Modern English is its vast vocabulary, largely due to its history of borrowing words from other languages. English has absorbed words from Latin, Greek, French, Germanic, Arabic, and Indian languages, among others. This diversity allows English speakers to choose between words with different connotations or levels of formality. For example: "Ask" (Old English) vs. "inquire" (Latin-derived). "Freedom" (Germanic origin) vs. "liberty" (Latin-derived). These synonyms reflect the flexibility of English, allowing for precise expression across various domains—academic, casual, legal, and technical. Furthermore, neologisms (new words) continue to emerge, especially with advancements in technology and culture. Terms like "internet," "blog," "selfie," and "hashtag" have all become integral to modern communication, reflecting the dynamic nature of the language. Pronunciation and Spelling Inconsistencies. Despite its simplified grammar, English remains notorious for its inconsistent pronunciation and spelling. Many words are not pronounced as they are written, and regional accents further complicate the language for learners. Some examples include: "Though", "through", "thought", and "thorough" are spelled similarly but pronounced differently. "Lead" (to guide) vs. "lead" (the metal) are spelled the same but pronounced differently. This inconsistency arises from the language's rich history of borrowing from different linguistic traditions, each with its own phonetic rules. Additionally, the Great Vowel Shift and the printing press helped standardize spelling, but pronunciation lagged behind, leading to ongoing differences between written and spoken forms. Use of Modal Verbs and Auxiliary Structures. English uses modal verbs (can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must) and auxiliary verbs (be, have, do) to express various tenses, moods, and aspects. These verbs are crucial for constructing questions, negations, and passive constructions. For example: "I can help you" (ability), "I must go now" (necessity), "The book is being read" (passive construction). This use of auxiliary verbs simplifies sentence construction and allows speakers to express a wide range of ideas with relatively simple structures. Phrasal Verbs and Idiomatic Expressions. Another challenge for learners of Modern English is the extensive use of phrasal verbs, which consist of a verb combined with a preposition or adverb to create a new meaning. These expressions are often idiomatic, meaning their meaning cannot be directly inferred from the words themselves. For instance: "Turn up" (to appear), "Get along" (to have a good relationship), "Break down" (to stop working or to emotionally collapse). In addition to phrasal verbs, idiomatic expressions such as "kick the bucket" (to die) or "spill the beans" (to reveal a secret) are commonly used in spoken and written English. These phrases often pose challenges for non-native speakers, as they require cultural and contextual understanding. Global Use and Varieties of English. Modern English is spoken in diverse regions around the world, and as such, it has developed into numerous varieties or dialects. These include: British English, American English, Australian English, Indian English, African English (including South African English), and more. Each variety has its own distinct vocabulary, pronunciation, and sometimes grammar rules. For example,

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British English uses "biscuit" for what Americans call a "cookie". Moreover, some words may have different meanings in different varieties. The word "fag" in British English refers to a cigarette, but in American English, it has a derogatory meaning. These regional variation require learners to understand not just standard English but also the global differences that exist. Technology and Language Change. The rise of the internet, social media, and global communication has also played a significant role in shaping Modern English. New terms, acronyms, and abbreviations emerge rapidly. Examples include:a) "LOL" (laugh out loud), b) "BRB" (be right back), c)"Emoji" (graphical representation of emotions). In addition, the language has adapted to new communication platforms, influencing the development of digital literacy and language. Abbreviations and informal writing styles dominate online communication, and learners need to familiarize themselves with these evolving aspects of the language. Conclusion: Modern English is a dynamic and evolving language, shaped by centuries of historical events, social changes, and technological advancements. Its simplicity in grammar, vast vocabulary, regional variations, and pronunciation complexities make it both rich and challenging for learners. By understanding these distinctive features, learners can better navigate the language, adapting to its many nuances and embracing its role as a global tool for communication.

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