

## Anglo-Saxon Vocabulary

The lessons that follow illustrate the influences that other languages have had on English. Most of the lessons are like puzzles that the students need to solve.

Before the Norman invasion in 1066, the Angles and Saxons ruled. Despite the influences of foreign words, over 25 percent of our English vocabulary comes from the language of the Angles and Saxons. Many of our basic words are of Anglo-Saxon origin, as shown in Exhibit 6.2. In studying word origins, students learn more about our language and add to their growing vocabulary. The more students know about vocabulary, the more they can improve reading comprehension. See the handouts in Exhibits 6.3 and 6.4.

### Exhibit 6.2 Anglo-Saxon Vocabulary

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#### Anglo-Saxon Vocabulary

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**Objectives** To expose students to words and word parts that originated from the Anglo-Saxons.

**Materials** Anglo-Saxon Vocabulary Handouts (Exhibits 6.3 and 6.4)

**Time** 30–40 minutes

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#### Procedure

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**Step 1** Make copies of the accompanying handouts and explain to students about the impact that other foreign languages can have on a language.

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**Step 2** Divide the class into groups of four to discuss and complete the handout.

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**Step 3** Once the students have completed the handout, discuss in a large group and use the following questions and prompts:  
What did you learn about language?  
What words could you add to the lists?  
Why do you think these words have remained in English?

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**IRA/NCTE Standards** 6. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.

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### Exhibit 6.3 Anglo-Saxon Handout 1 (Prefixes)

<b>Word</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>A:</b>	<i>on, in, at</i>
Aboard	on a ship, train, or bus
Afoul	in collision
Aloof	at or from a distance, withdrawn, apart
Abed	
Adrift	
Afield	
Afloat	
Aloft	
<b>with:</b>	<i>against, back</i>
Withdraw	draw back, take back
Withhold	hold back
Withstand	stand against, resist
<b>be:</b>	<i>all around, on all sides</i>
Beset	attack on all sides, surround
Begrudge	
Belabor	
Bemuddle	
Besiege	
Besmirch	
<b>be:</b>	<i>affect with, cover with</i>
Begrime	cover with grime, make dirty
Becloud	
Bedevil	
Befog	
Belie	
Bewitch	
<b>be:</b>	<i>cause to be</i>
Belittle	cause to be little or unimportant
Becalm	
Bewilder	

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## Exhibit 6.4 Anglo-Saxon Handout 2 (Suffixes)

Word	Meaning
<b>wise:</b> breadthwise lengthwise otherwise	<i>way, manner</i>
<b>dom:</b>  earldom martyrdom dukedom serfdom sheikdom	<i>dignity, office, realm, state of being, those having the characteristic of</i> realm of an earl state of being a martyr
<b>some:</b>  cumbersome fulsome  mettlesome noisome winsome bothersome fearsome frolicsome gruesome quarrelsome	<i>having a considerable degree of the quality denoted in the first part of some word.</i> full of encumbrances, stifling offensive because of an excessive display of insincerity full of mettle, or courage offensive to the sense of smell full of winning quality, merry
<b>some:</b> twosome threesome	<i>group of</i> group of two
<b>ling:</b>  hireling starveling yearling	<i>one pertaining to or concerned with whatever is denoted in the first part of the word</i> one who receives pay for work performed one who is thin from lack of food
<b>ling:</b> duckling gosling sapling	<i>little</i> little duck

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