

A3. Main periods and factors of development of English phonology

Aim: revise historical periods of English phonology and the factors that influenced pronunciation changes.

Activity 1. Complete the timeline.

Period	Approximate time	Pronunciation feature / change
Old English		
Middle English		
Early Modern English		
Modern English		

Activity 2. Match factors with explanations.

Factor	Explanation / example
Language contact	
Great Vowel Shift	
Standardization	
Social change	
Spelling tradition	

Activity 3. Cause and effect.

Cause	Possible effect on English pronunciation
Norman French influence	
Printing press and spelling fixation	
Growth of London standard	
Global spread of English	

Activity 4. Historical mini-poster plan.

In groups, prepare a small poster: period name, 3 key facts, 2 pronunciation changes/features, and 1 example word. Use the space below for planning.
