A Historical Timeline of English Orthography

Old English:

0	Prehistory - 55 BC	The English (Anglo-Saxon) alphabet is derived from the runic alphabet.
	55 BC - 410 AD	The influence of the Roman Empire in England is strong; Rome governs England in addition to numerous surrounding areas (France, Switzerland, etc.). The Romans force the use of Latin into trade, government, religion, and education. → The adoption of the Latin alphabet meant adding additional characters like þ (thorn) and ð (eth) to represent sounds not found in Latin.
<u> </u>	700 AD - 1066 AD	The end of the Roman Empire in England leaves other groups to invade like the Irish, Scottish, and Scandinavian. The Latin language remains, but English takes on Scandinavian influence. → Third person plural pronouns such as they, them, their, and themselves are integrated into the English language.

Middle English:

0	1066 AD	The Norman Conquest of England introduces French influence on English spelling and vocabulary. → Words such as "government," and "parliament" are integrated into the English language.
		The Great Vowel Shift, a major change in the pronunciation of English vowels, begins, leading to discrepancies between spelling and pronunciation.
0	1476 AD	William Caxton introduces the printing press to England, standardizing spelling to some extent.

Early Modern English:

$\overline{}$		Shakespeare makes up new words and definitions in his lifetime, which
\bigcirc	1564-1616 AD	are integrated into the English language.
		→ Ex.: uncomfortable, lonely.
\bigcirc	1607 AD	The founding of Jamestown brings English to North America.
\bigcirc	1755 AD	Samuel Johnson writes the first English dictionary.
\cap	1761 AD	Joseph Priestly publishes a book on English grammar, "The Rudiments
\cup		of English Grammar."

Modern English:

1020 AD	Noah Webster publishes "An American Dictionary of the English
1828 AD	Language," leading to differences between American and British
	spelling conventions.

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