

# English 2333: Dual Credit

## Runes to Latin Script



### Quick Facts

1. **Old English (Anglo-Saxon)** is divided into four dialects:  
the **Anglian-based: Mercian, Northumbrian**  
the **Saxon-based: Kentish, West Saxon**
  - “Cædmon's Hymn” is an example of Northumbrian
  - *Beowulf* is an example of West Saxon
2. In England sometime within the 6th century, a **Latin alphabet** was adopted, mainly through influences from the developing monasteries which were constructed throughout the island for both Anglian and Saxon dialects.
3. Rather than using Nordic runes, and due to the use of Latin language in academic and royal classes, a shift had developed from the original Viking invaders to the Christian doctrines which were produced in Latin and Greek.

included in the newer alphabet were traces of the older Nordic ways:

*wynn* ⟨ƿ⟩ (w)

*thorn* ⟨þ⟩ (th)

plus newly-created Latin-based letters:

*eth* ⟨ð⟩ (th)

*ash* ⟨æ⟩