

1  **The English Reformation**

2  **The English Reformation began with a dispute between the pope and King Henry VIII.**

- Henry was originally a strong opponent of the Reformation, and even wrote a book against Luther, calling him a “poisonous serpent” and “wolf of hell.”

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- Henry’s personal and political problems brought him into conflict with the pope.
  - Henry wanted his marriage to Catherine of Aragon annulled by the pope so he could marry someone else who would hopefully give him a son.
  - The pope refused, largely because of pressure from the Holy Roman Emperor, who was Catherine’s nephew.

4  **This conflict led to Henry’s revolt against the pope’s authority.**

- Henry married someone else and had his marriage to Catherine annulled by an English court.
- The pope excommunicated him.
- In 1534, with the Act of Supremacy, Henry made himself, and not the pope, the head of the Church of England, or Anglican Church.

5  **Besides this difference in supreme authority, little else changed except for the spread of the English Bible.**

- Henry maintained all major Catholic doctrines except for the authority of the pope.

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- Henry decreed that English Bibles be widely distributed.
  - This English translation were largely the work of William Tyndale.
  - The new availability of the Bible created such a stir that Henry soon decided that only the upper classes would be allowed to read it.

7  **Anglican doctrine became more Protestant when Edward VI became king in 1547.**

- Edward’s advisors were in favor of greater reform.
  - Church services began in English.
  - Priests were allowed to marry.
- This ended when Edward died in 1553.

8  **Henry’s daughter Mary became queen, and tried to return England to Catholicism.**

- Mary had almost 300 Protestants executed.
- Many Englishmen deeply resented Mary’s efforts to return them to Rome’s control.
- Mary’s efforts failed when she died in 1558.

9  **Another of Henry’s daughters, Elizabeth, became queen, and restored Protestantism as England’s official religion.**

- Elizabeth sought to end religious conflict by establishing the Church of England as a Protestant church that kept many Catholic traditions.

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- Many English Protestants were dissatisfied by this approach, and wanted to “purify” the Church of England of all Catholic elements; they became known as Puritans.
- Others, called Separatists, believed that the Church of England was so corrupt that they needed to leave it and start new churches.