

2.8 Exercises

A. Sets of Common Words

Most of the following words, when read aloud in sets, will not require dictionary look-up. A few sets appear with Latin equivalents—of which the Old English forms were originally glosses—when the Latin form, or a subsequent borrowing of the Latin (or related) form into English, should be familiar.

1. ān	- - - - -	- - - - -
twā, tweġen	- - - - -	- - - - -
þrȳ, þrēo	þrēotȳne	þrittig
feower	feowertȳne	feowertig
fif	fiftȳne	fiftig
six	syxtȳne	syxtig
seofon	seofontȳne	hundseofontig
eahta	eahtatȳne	hundehtatig
nigon	nigontȳne	hundnigontig
tȳn	twēntig	hundtēontig
endleofan	ān ond twēntig	- - - - -
twelf	(ond swā forð)	þūsend
2. se forma	- - - - -	ānfeald
se oðer	- - - - -	twȳfeald
se þrida	se þrēotēoða	ðrȳfeald
se feowerða	se feowertēoða	feowerfeald
se fifta	se fiftēoða	fiffeald
se sixta	se syxtēoða	syxfeald
se sefoða	se seofontēoða	seofonfeald
se eahteoða	se eahtatēoða	eahtafeald
se nigoða	se nigontēoða	nigonfeald
se tēoða	- - - - -	tȳnfeald
se endleofta	- - - - -	- - - - -
se twelfta	(ond swā forð)	twēntigfeald

- | | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|--|
| 3. | gēarlīc
twȳwintre
þrȳwintre
fēowerwintre
fifwintre | <i>annuus</i> 'yearly'
<i>biennis</i>
<i>triennis</i>
<i>quadriennis</i>
<i>quinquennis</i> | for twām gēarum,
tweġra gēara fyrst
þrēora gēara fyrst
fēower gēara fyrst | <i>biennium</i>
<i>triennium</i>
<i>quadrennium</i> |
| 4. | twȳfēte
þrȳfēte
fyþerfēte,
fēowerfēte* | <i>bipes</i>
<i>tripēs</i>
<i>quadrupes</i> | | |
| 5. | Sunnandæg
Sunnanæfen**
Sunnanniht** | Mōnandæg
Mōnanæfen
Mōnanniht | Tiwesdæg
Tiwesniht | Wōdnesdæg
Wōdnesniht |
| | Dunresdæg
Dunresniht | Frīgedæg
Frīgeniht | Saterdæg
Sæterniht | |
| 6. | fæder
mōdor
ealda fæder
þrida fæder | <i>pater</i>
<i>mater</i>
<i>auus</i>
<i>abauus</i> | sunu
dohtor
brōðor
sweoster | <i>filius</i>
<i>filia</i>
<i>frater</i>
<i>soror</i> |
| | stēopfæder
stēopmōdor
fōstorfæder
fōstormōdor
fōstorland | | stēopsunu
stēopdohtor
fōstorcild
fōstorsweoster
fōstorling | |

Siblinge *affinis vel consanguineus*

*Also, Lōc-hwæt hæbbe tȳn fēt *decempes* 'Whatever may have ten feet.'

**Sunnanæfen 'Saturday evening,' Sunnanniht 'Saturday night.' Also, Sunnanūhta 'dawn of Sunday morning,' Sunnanmergen 'Sunday morning.'

7.	lim	<i>membrum</i>	brēost	<i>pectus</i>
	hēafod	<i>caput</i>	heorte	<i>cor</i>
	brægen	<i>cerebrum</i>	maga	<i>stomachus</i>
	hnecca	<i>ceruiz</i>	blōd	<i>sanguis</i>
	foreweard		flæsc	<i>caro</i>
	hēafod	<i>frons</i>	hȳd	<i>cutis</i>
	nosu	<i>nasus vel</i>	sculdra	<i>scapula</i>
		<i>naris</i>	hrycg	<i>dorsum</i>
	hær	<i>capillus</i>	earm	<i>brachium</i>
	ēare	<i>auris</i>	elboga	<i>ulna</i>
	ansȳn	<i>facies</i>	hand	<i>manus</i>
	ēage	<i>oculus</i>	finger	<i>digitus</i>
	mūð	<i>os</i>	nægel	<i>unguis</i>
	weler	<i>labium</i>	ðūma	<i>pollex</i>
	tōð	<i>dens</i>	sīde	<i>latus</i>
	tunge	<i>lingua</i>	ribb	<i>costa</i>
	gōma	<i>palatum</i>	þēoh	<i>femur</i>
	þrotu	<i>guttur</i>	hype	<i>clunis</i>
	ċinn	<i>mentum</i>	cnēow	<i>genu</i>
	beard	<i>barba</i>	scinbān	<i>tibia</i>
8.	þunor	<i>tonitruum</i>	dæg	<i>dies</i>
	liġet	<i>fulgor</i>	niht	<i>nox</i>
	rēn, reġn	<i>pluuia</i>	meriġen	<i>mane</i>
	snāw	<i>nix</i>	æfen	<i>uesperum</i>
	hagol	<i>grando</i>	wucu	<i>ebdomada</i>
	forst	<i>gelu</i>	mōnað	<i>mensis</i>
	īs	<i>glacies</i>	lencten	<i>uer</i>
	lyft	<i>aer</i>	sumor	<i>aestas</i>
	wind	<i>uentus</i>	hærfest	<i>autumnus</i>
	weder	<i>aura</i>	winter	<i>hiems</i>
	scūr	<i>nimbus</i>	tōdæg	<i>hodie</i>
	storm	<i>procella</i>	ġyrstandæg	<i>heri</i>
	rēnboga	<i>yris vel arcus</i>	wic-dæg	‘weekday’
			tō-morġen	‘tomorrow’

B. Patterns and Contrasts of Sounds

1. Vowel Contrasts. (a) Practice pronouncing the following pairs of forms. (b) Consult a dictionary of Old English to learn the difference of meaning for forms in each pair; the difference in meaning matched to difference in pronunciation establishes the phonemic distinction of the vowels.

mūs	mȳs	tǣcen	tæcen	metan	mētan
lūs	lȳs	mōt	mot	broc	brōc
bū	bȳ	tǣl	tæl	wær	wǣr
fōt	fēt	wītan	witan	brod	brōd
cū	cȳ	ful	ful	bær	bǣr
gōs	gēs	pīc	pic	scop	scōp
lāf	līf	mān	man	swan	swān
ǣr	ār	ǣl	æl	blæd	blǣd
āc	ac	gōd	god	byre	bȳre
sǣd	sæd	gēoc	geoc	grut	grūt

2. Consonant Contrasts. (a) Practice pronouncing the following sets of forms. (b) With the help of a dictionary of Old English, find still further examples of pairs or sets of forms that contrast in one consonant only.

swelan	swellan	raca	racca
stelan	stellan	tredan	treddan
scīd	scīp	scīr	scīn
scear	sceard	scearn	scearp
fā	fāg	fāh	fām
earn	earg	eard	earn
lēad	lēat	lēap	lēac
lēas	lēaf	lēah	lēan
heald	healt	healp	heals
healf	healh	healm	heall

3. Practice pronouncing the following variant forms; variations of these kinds are common in the writing of Old English.

herge	herie	herige	'(I) praise'
āxode	ācsode	āhsode	'(I) asked'
wyrsa	wirsa	wiersa	'worse'
þegen	þegn	þēn	'thane, servant'
gierd	ierd		'rod, staff'
geard	eard		'yard, dwelling'
gerusalem	ierusalem		'Jerusalem'
þancigende	þanciende		'thanking'
bearu	bearwes		'grove, wood' (uninflected and inflected)
āxian	āxigean		'(to) ask'

C. Readings

1. In his Grammar of Latin, Ælfric writes (in Old English) of **stafas** 'letters'; the letter-names will conform to the principles of long and short vowel distribution in syllables. To say that *f*, for example, 'begins on the "letter" *e* and ends in itself' implies that its name is /ef/. On the other hand, the name of the letter *e* would have to be /ē/.

Littera is 'stæf' on englisc .

... Sōðlice on lēden-spræce
synd þreo ond twentiġ stafa:
. a . b . c . d . e . f . g .
h . i . k . l . m . n . o . p .
q . r . s . t . u . x . y . z .
Of þām syndon fīf *uocales*, þæt
synd 'clypiġendlīce,' a . e .
i . o . u . Ðās fīf stafas æt-
ēowiað heora naman þurh hī
silfe; ond būton þām stafum
ne mæg nān word beon āwriten .
. . . Tō þisum is ġe-numen se
grēcisca . y . for intinga
grēciscra namena; ond se ylca
. y . is on engliscum ġewrytum

Littera is 'letter' in English.

... Truly, in Latin there are
twenty-three letters:
a, b, c, d, e, f, g,
h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p,
q, r, s, t, u, x, y, z.
Of those five are *uocales*, which
are vocal(-sounds), *a, e,*
i, o, u. These five letters
indicate their names by them-
selves; and without those letters
no word can be written.
... To these is added the
Greek *y* for the sake of
Greek names; and the same
y is in English writings

swiþe gewunelīc . Ealle þā oðre
 stafas syndon gehātene *consonantes*
 þæt is ‘samod-swēgēnde,’ for-þan-
 þe hī swēgað mid þām fīf
 clypigendlicum. Þonne bēoð gyt
 of þām samod-swēgendum sume
semi-uocales, þæt synd ‘healf-
 clypigēnde’; sume syndon mutē,
 þæt synd ‘dumbe.’ *Semi-uocales*
 syndon seofon: . f . l . m . n .
 r . s . x . Þās syndon healf-
 clypigēnde gecīgede, for-þan-þe
 hī nabbað fulle clypunge swā swā
 þā *quinque uocales*, ond þā six
 onginnað of þām stæfe . e . ond
 ge-endiað on him sylfum; . x .
 āna onginð on þām stæfe . i .
 . . . Þā oþre nigon *consonantes*
 synd gecwedene mutē, þæt synd
 ‘dumbe’; hī ne sind nā mid ealle
 dumbe, ac hī habbað lýtle clipunge:
 þā synd . b . c . d . g . h .
 k . p . q . t . Þās onginnað
 of him sylfum ond ge-endiað on
 ðām clipigendlicum stafum:
 b . c . d . g . p . t . ge-
 endiað on . e ; . h . ond . k .
 ge-endiað on . a . æfter rihte.
 . q . ge-endað on . u ; . z .
 ēac, se grēcisca stæf, ge-endað
 on . a . [ond swā forð].

extremely common. All the other
 letters are called *consonantes*,
 that is ‘with-sounding,’ because
 they sound with the five vocal
 sounds [i.e., vowels]. Then
 there are yet of those consonants
 certain semivowels, which are
 ‘half-vowels’; some are mutē,
 which are ‘mute.’ There are seven
 semivowels: *f, l, m, n,*
r, s, x. These are called semi-
 vowels because they don’t have
 a full (vocal) sound as the
 five vowels do, and the six
 begin from the letter *e*, and
 end on themselves; *x* alone
 begins on the letter *i*.
 ... The other nine consonants
 are called mutē, which are
 ‘silent’; they are not altogether
 mute, but they have little sound.
 Those are *b, c, d, g, h,*
k, p, q, t. These begin
 from themselves and end on
 the vowel letter:
b, c, d, g, p, t end
 on *e*; *h* and *k*
 end on *a*, rightly.
q ends on *u*; *z*, in addition,
 the Greek letter, ends
 on *a* [and so forth].

2. A twelfth century manuscript lists the alphabet as follows. For several letter names, such as ‘B be uel bei,’ the latter spelling apparently represents a diphthongization with an off-glide similar to that in Modern English for words such as **day**, **say**, which was not present in the main period of Old English. (‘Uel’ is Latin for ‘or.’)

A a B be uel bei C ce uel cei D de uel dei E e F f ef G ge uel gei H hah uel hake I i K ka L l el M m em N n en O o Q quu R r er S s es T te V u X x ix Y y fix Z zede . . . Anglice littere P wen Ð ðet Þ þorn 7 and.

3. Some explanations of nature.

Rēnas cumað of ðære lyfte.... Sēo lyft liccað ond ātȳhð ðone wætan of ealre eorðan ond of ðære sǣ, ond ġegaderað tō scūrum; ond þonne hēo mǣre āberan ne mæg, þonne feaļð hit adūne tō rēne ālȳsed.

Hagol cymð of ðām rēndropum þonne hī bēoð ġefrorene upp on þære lyfte ond swā siððan feallað.

Snāw cymð of ðām þynnan wætan þe byð upp ātogen mid þære lyfte ond byð ġefroren ær-þan hē tō dropum ġe-urnen sȳ, ond swā sǣmtincges fylð.

Dunor cymð of hǣtan ond of wætan. Sēo lyft tȳhð ðone wætan tō hire neoðan and ðā hǣtan ufon; ond ðonne hī ġegaderode bēoð—sēo hǣte ond se wæta—binnan þære lyfte, þonne winnað hī him betwȳnan mid ēgeslīcum sweġe, ond þæt fȳr āberst ūt ðurh līġette.... Swā hǣttre sumor, swā mǣre ðunor ond līġet on ġēare.

Rains come from the sky.... The sky licks and draws up the moisture from all the earth and from the sea, and gathers (it) into showers; and when it can't carry more, then it falls downward dissolved in rain.

Hail comes from the raindrops when they are frozen aloft in the air and thus afterwards fall.

Snow comes from the thin moisture that is drawn up with the air and is frozen before it is combined into drops, and so it falls continually.

Thunder comes from heat and moisture. The sky draws the moisture to it from below and the heat from above; and when they are gathered—the heat and the moisture—within the cloud (sky), then they contest between themselves, with an awful noise, and fire bursts out through lightning.... The hotter the summer, the more thunder and lightning (there is) in the year.

4. *Paternoster* and creed

Dū ūre fæder ðe eart on heofonum, sȳ þīn nama ġehālgod; ġecume þīn rīce; sī þīn willa swā on heofonum ond ēac on eorðan. Syle ūs tōdæg ūrne dæg-hwomlīcan hlāf. And forġif ūs ūre giltas, swā swā wē forġifað þām þe wið ūs āgiltað. And ne læt þū nā ūs on costnunge ac ālȳs ūs fram yfele. Sī hit swā.

Ic ġelȳfe on god fæder ælmihtigne, scippend heofenan ond eorþan, ond ic ġeliue* on hælend crist his ācennedan sunu ūrne drihten. Sē wæs ġe-ēacnod of þām hālgan gāste, ond ācenned of marian þām mædene, ġeprowod under ðām pontiscan pilate, on rōde āhangen. Hē wæs dēad, ond ġebyrged, ond hē niðer āstāh tō helle, ond ārās of dēaðe on þām þriddan dæge. Ond hē āstāh ūp tō heofonum, and sit nū æt swīþran godes ælmihtiges fæder, þanon hē wile cuman tō dēmenne æġþer ġe þām cucum ġe þām dēadan. Ond ic ġelȳue* on þone hālgan gāst, ond ðā hālgan ġelapunge, ond hālgena ġemænnysse, ond flæscas ærist, ond þæt ēce lif. Sȳ hit swā.

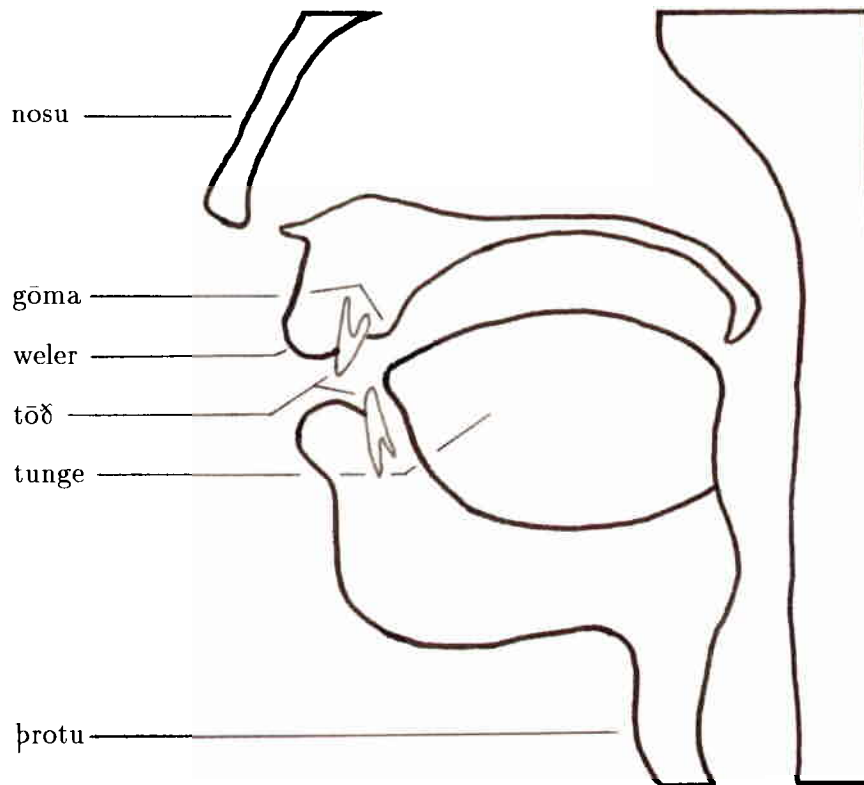
*A late Old English spelling of voiced [v] allophone of /f/ is *u*, as here.

Remedy for snake-bite

Wið ealle wunda ond wið nāddran slitas, ġenim þysse wyrte sēaw þe man *personaciam* ond oðrum naman *bōete* nemneð. Syle drincan on ealdon wīne. Ealle nāddran slitas hyt wundurlice ġehæleð.

‘Against all wounds and for bites of snake, take the juice of this wort which one names *personaca*, and by another name *boete* (beet). Give to drink (or, give it to be drunk) in old wine. It wonderfully heals all bites of snake.’

D. How Speech Sounds are Made



nasis/naris	nosu	dens	tōð
palatum	gōma	(dentes)	(tēð)
labium	weler	lingua	tunge
	oððe lippa	guttur	þrotu

Ælc stemn byð geworden of ðæs mūðes clypunge ond of ðære lyfte cnys-sunge. Se mūð drifð ūt þā clypunge, ond sēo lyft byð ġeslagen mid ðære clypunge ond ġewyrð tō stemne.

‘Each [speech-] sound comes to be from the mouth’s articulation and from the beating of the air. The mouth drives out that articulation, and the air is struck with that articulation and turns into sound.’